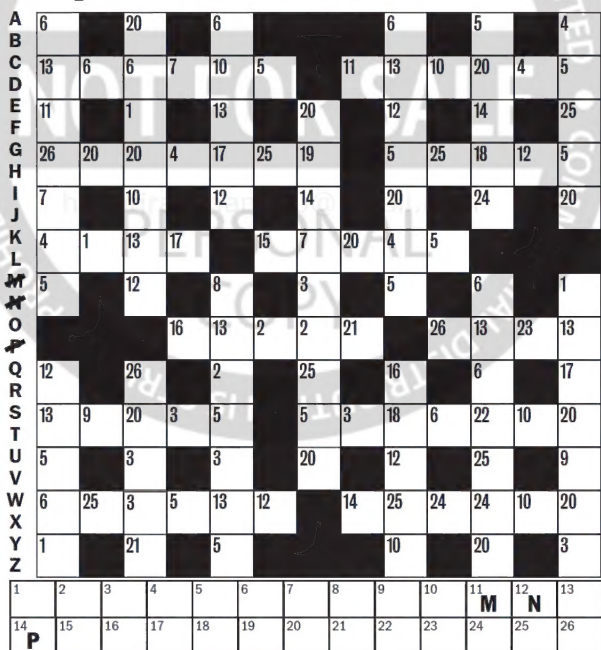


# THE PAPER FOR WINNERS

## Alpha Puzzle™



AlphaPuzzle™ tests your logic and word power. Each grid number represents a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters – below the main grid – to start. Solution tomorrow.

**DIFFICULTY:** 7/10 **TARGET:** 24 minutes  
**CLUE:** Titillate river for a stream

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION: Across:**  
 Default, Wrack, Stool, Earache, Badlands, Suet, Nerves, Zealot, Made, Carapace, Racquet, Rabid, Holly, Compere.

**Down:** Dustbin, March, Fjord, Radical, Unleaded, Fury, Trendy, Mastic, Wary, Hexagram, Accrual, Amble (clue), Knelt, Treadle.

**EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0905 072 3264**  
 (Hear up to six extra letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.)

● Alternatively, text DSALPHA to 83426 and we will text the six extra letter clues direct to your mobile.

● Texts cost £1 plus normal network operator rate.

**FULL SOLUTION: 0905 072 3265**  
 ● Calls cost 75p per minute from BT landlines

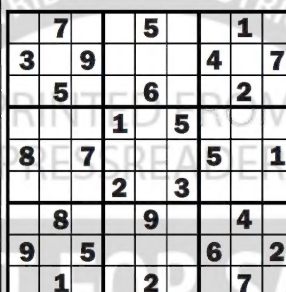
# The Write Stuff

This is a puzzle that will let you exercise your grey matter and play with words. There's need for a novel approach to the puzzle – and just a little application as usual. There is a warning however – one item has been erased from the grid and can't be found. Which one?

L Y R I C S S A W O K M E N T  
 E T A L P E M A N C A D O Y P  
 A E M S S E R D D A H V R S I  
 A E X E S N R N S Y E E O A R  
 G R B E I E U U H L T E Q E C  
 R M T N R M C P T T G S W U S  
 E C G I B C A I E A P S X M E  
 F S I E C R I L S Y N A R V A  
 E U R S G L N S P A E G L E Y  
 R C L O U R E O E L A S I R R  
 E I I N P M C R T P T L K S O  
 N B A P P L I C A T I O N E T  
 C S M A X E A M E M O G N O S  
 E M E O P I C G G B P A P E R  
 O R Y M U S I P Y I N N U R A

**ADDRESS** **MESSAGE**  
**ANSWER** **MUSIC**  
**APPLICATION** **NAMEPLATE**  
**ARTICLE** **NOVEL**  
**BIOGRAPHY** **NUMBER**  
**BOOK** **PAPER**  
**CARD** **PLAY**  
**CHEQUE** **POEM**  
**COPY** **REFERENCE**  
**ELEGY** **SCRIPT**  
**E-MAIL** **SIGNATURE**  
**ESSAY** **SLOGAN**  
**EXAM** **SONG**  
**EXERCISE** **STORY**  
**LETTER** **VERSE**  
**LYRICS** **WARNING**  
**MEMO**

## SUDOKU



Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine.

**Level:** Moderate  
**Target:** 26 mins

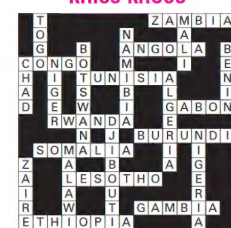
### YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

4 6 8 9 2 1 7 5 3  
 7 3 1 4 6 5 9 2 8  
 2 9 5 8 3 7 4 1 6  
 6 7 3 5 1 8 2 9 4  
 8 1 9 6 4 2 5 3 7  
 5 4 2 3 7 9 8 6 1  
 3 2 6 7 9 4 1 8 5  
 1 8 7 2 5 3 6 4 9  
 9 5 4 1 8 6 3 7 2

Extra clues: 0905 072 0302 Today's solution: 0905 072 0301

## YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

### KRISS KROSS



## SOLUTIONS IN TOMORROW'S

# Two-way Teaser

Call 0905 072 3267 for today's solution.  
 Calls cost 75p per minute from a BT landline.

### CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Grounds in this have provided drink (6,3)
  - We'd no new order to give permanent income (5)
  - Waggish variation that gives pilot a turn? (4,4)
  - In the morning donkey has to accumulate (5)
  - He delivers job to fellow (7)
  - Sort of club giving great delight (4)
  - Excluded tout will lose his head (3)
  - A couple in it won't! (3)
  - Pay about pound to see stage production (4)
  - Good translations are, till changed (7)
  - Shout to make others happier (5)
  - Arts once developed by forefather (8)
  - The flat emptied of contents is victim of it (5)

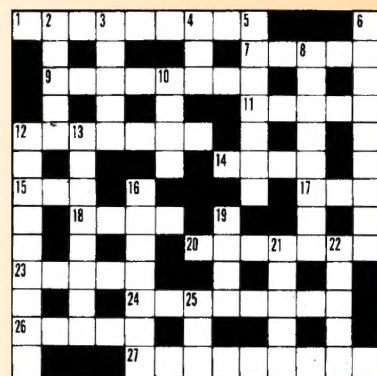
- DOWN**
- Attractive end on hanging jewel, we are told (9)
  - Eliminated party has to do better than others (5)
  - It was hard to make a tool from (5)
  - Young animal can go in either direction (3)
  - Number with skill that can be held (7)
  - Form of alpine descent that takes the cake? (5,4)
  - Middle line for team ride in formation (8)
  - Country mansion MP must hold on to! (4)
  - Ordinary language, clever for what D.A.s do (9)
  - Corner, for example, fixed part (3,5)

- QUICK CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Container for hot drink (6,3)
  - To provide (5)
  - Descent of an aircraft in a steep spiral (4,4)
  - Accumulate (5)
  - Post Office employee (7)
  - Mirth (4)
  - Not at home (3)
  - A couple (3)

- DOWN**
- A theatre production (4)
  - Shout of encouragement (5)
  - Forefather (8)
  - Burglary (5)
  - Arousing affection (9)
  - Surpass (5)
  - Form of quartz (5)
  - Young dog (3)
  - able to be maintained (7)
  - Sponge with jam filling (5,4)
  - Length across centre of circle (8)
  - Chair (4)
  - To bring a criminal action against (9)
  - Rehearsed football move (3,5)
  - Relate (7)
  - Instance or occasion (4)
  - Take part in competition (5)
  - Kind of stage (5)
  - Boulder (3)

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION - ACROSS:** 1 Resumes, 5 Risks, 8 Ill, 9 Statuette, 10 Smite, 11 Element, 13 Errors, 14 Sample, 17 Panache, 19 Bends, 21 In a moment, 23 Ire, 24 Solid, 25 Torment. **DOWN:** 1 Raids, 2 Soldier On, 3 Masseur, 4 Stayer, 5 Route, 6 Set, 7 Sceptre, 12 Expensive, 13 Empties, 15 Arbitrator, 16 Decent, 18 Crowd, 20 Sheet, 22 All.

Two sets of clues, but the answers are the same  
**ANSWERS TOMORROW**



The Daily Star Crossword Books Vols 2 - 12, The Puzzler Books of Crosswords Vols 1-4 and The Puzzler Books of Puzzles Vols 2, 3 and 4 are all currently available at £3.99 each. Please send a cheque or postal order made payable to The Daily Star Bookshop, PO Box 200, Falmouth TR11 4WJ or telephone 0871 434 6095 with your credit card details. Please allow 14 days for delivery. Postage in the UK is free.







# It's the business

'The silliest woman can manage a clever man; but it needs a very clever woman to manage a fool' – Rudyard Kipling

## Movers & groovers

**RYANAIR** will today carry out its threat to slash services between Stansted and Newquay in protest at Cornwall County Council's £5 surcharge to pay for airport expansion.

It is withdrawing some 12 flights a week, down to 16, which it claims will mean the loss of around 100,000 passengers a year.

Airline deputy chief Michael Cawley said: "Taxing tourists is not the way to promote visitors to come to Cornwall, particularly during the difficult winter months."

**THE Safeway** supermarket banner will disappear from Britain today as **Morrisons** completes its store conversion programme.

It has converted 219 Safeway shops, taking the Morrisons estate to over 360. But with five profits warnings since he bought Safeway last year, the success of Sir Ken Morrison's deal remains debatable.

**PHILIP Graf**, former chief executive of newspaper publisher **Trinity Mirror**, has turned gamekeeper by becoming the deputy chairman at media regulator **Ofcom**.

Graf, who left Trinity three years ago to be replaced by **Sly Bailey**, has filled his time reviewing the BBC's online activities.

**ENGINEERING** firm **GKN** says **Ian Griffiths**, head of its automotive division, will leave in January.

His new job is under wraps but **GKN** said he had taken on the post of managing director of "a major UK based business".

THE DEALER

## HOT GOSSIP

**COOKSON'S** market revival gathered momentum on renewed talk of a takeover. The industrial materials company's shares firmed 15.25p to 380.25p on rumours that a predator was mulling a 500p-a-share approach. **Cookson** has seen its market value rise 20% over the past month.

## Rental market still strong

SPECULATORS have deserted the buy-to-let market leaving it to professional landlords and serious investors, says specialist mortgage lender **Paragon**. The past year had seen fewer buyers hoping to "make a quick turn" in the market, said chief executive **Nigel Terrington**. While the general mortgage

market had seen a mixed picture following interest rate rises, the buy-to-let market had seen sustained demand, he said. "Our landlords remain optimistic. There is an increase in tenant demand and prospects of lower interest rates," said **Terrington**. The group saw the value of

its buy-to-let portfolio rise from £4 billion to £5bn in the year to the end of September. But it suffered weaker demand for consumer finance as car loans and store credit were hit by higher interest rates. Annual pre-tax profits rose from £71 million to £76.8m.

## FAIR SHARES

UK blue chip gains were overshadowed by medium-sized firms as bid rumours swirled around **EMI** and **Cookson**. The **FTSE 250** climbed 58.8 points to 8304.6 while the **FTSE 100** rose 15.5 to 5332.7, a four-year high which helped boost the performance of major insurance companies.

# Rush for Xbox

## CURRYS WARNS OF XMAS SHORTAGES

**MICROSOFT'S** new **XBox 360**, **Apple's iPod** and the **Sony PSP** console will be in short supply this Christmas, the firm behind **Currys** warned last night.

**DSG International** warned of huge demand for the gadgets, expected to be this year's must-haves. But the **Dixons** and **Currys** electrical goods retailer said it expected to hammer its competitors in what will be a tough Christmas.

Chief exec **John Clare** said the group's stores, which also operate under the **PC World** and **The Link** banners, were well-prepared for the crucial festive period, with strong ranges and good deals. "We have held our own or better in our markets and I see no reason we shouldn't be able to do that over Christmas," he boasted.

## Bargains

Shoppers should find plenty of bargains as deflation in the electrical goods market continues.

Computers are about 16% cheaper than last year while the cost of **Star Nav** gear has tumbled.

**DSG**, which is Britain's biggest electrical goods retailer, makes 40% of its sales and 60% of its profits over the eight-week Christmas trading period.

It reported a further fall in sales at **Currys**, **Dixons**, **PC World** and **The Link** yesterday as the slowdown on the high street took its toll.

**Clare** said while there had been no significant deterioration in UK trad-

by **BILL MARTIN**

ing there was "no clear indication yet of any recovery" in its markets.

A strong performance from **DSG's** international stores pushed group sales up 4% in the first half.

But **Currys** has been hit by a downturn in fridges, ovens and washing machines sales.

Consumers have been cutting back on buying major appliances to fund higher mortgage, utility and petrol bills.

Sales at **Dixons** slipped 2% as strong demand for flat screen TVs and MP3 players was offset by a tough time for older technology markets such as personal stereos.

The weakest area in **Dixons' UK** business was **The Link**, where same-store sales crashed 28% amid competition in the mobile phone sector.

**O2's** takeover by **Spain's Telefonica** has heightened speculation **DSG** will sell its stake.

news@dailystar.co.uk



The growth of the "grab and go" lunching culture is one reason why the **Restaurant Group** decided to sell its **Caffe Uno** pizza and pasta chain in a £33million deal.

Managing director **Andrew Page** said the lack of people sitting down to lunch in favour of a sarnie had sparked the sale to **Chez Gerard** and **Bortorelli** owner **Paramount** yesterday. He explained: "It

was very difficult to see where long-term growth was going to be generated."

**Paramount's** chief executive **Nick Basing** said the deal would transform his group by more than doubling its size to 77 restaurants.

He said: "It takes us out of our traditional heartland in London and the South East."

## Higher prices get Drax fired-up

**EUROPE'S** largest coal-fired power station, **Drax**, will take advantage of Britain's soaring power prices with a £1.7 billion flotation next month.

The company, whose plant generates 7% of Britain's electricity needs, opted for a flotation yesterday after rejecting a bid approach from a US consortium.

Its market value will put it firmly in the **FTSE-250** and allow its management and staff to share a £136m share windfall.

## Cheap

Rescued from financial collapse by its creditors only three years ago, **Drax** is now benefiting from the scarcity of North Sea oil and gas, which has made retail energy prices higher.

This has meant coal, once out of favour as expensive and polluting, is now relatively cheap.

However, analysts warn its profits would be severely dented by any future falls in the price of oil and gas.

Analysts at **Morgan Stanley** predict that if the oil price remains around \$60 a barrel, **Drax** would be worth £4.15bn but if it drops to \$35 the value would be only £1.14bn.

## FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▲ Up 14.50 point (0.26%) at 5531.70

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low			
3i Grp.	867	+20	868	875	1470	Centrica	237c	-1c	264	217	1818	Land Secs.	1596	+20	1599	1235	1035
A.B. Food.	840c	+10	863	726	1062	Compass Group	204c	-	264	176	7663	Legal&Gen.	114c	-	119	102	1036
Alliance & Life	904c	+4	947	814	2233	Daily Mail	657c	+1	764	617	3973	Lib-tel	1002	+2	1025	865	7549
Alliance Unicom	774	+10	875	712	6022	Diageo	849	+4c	862	721	1029	Lloyds Tech Grp.	479c	+1c	509	415	6305
AMVESCO	392c	+5	432	299	1124	DSG Intl.	152	+1	167	138	1020	Man Group	1834c	+22	1835	1162	7996
Anglo	1851	+19	1853	1130	4949	Ent Inns	883	-6	889	637	4713	Marke & Sp.	455c	+2c	458	319	1039
Antellegata	1950	-24	1701	1052	3438	Exel	1221	+1	1235	715	1366	Morrison (W)	174c	+1c	225	161	1253
Astrazeneca	2650	+62	2767	1861	1585	Freemove	189c	-	191	146	7753	Next	159c	+3c	151	115	2782
Aviva	769c	+9c	769	573	3388	Gallagher Grp.	900	+5	907	707	2222	Old Mutual	150c	+3c	151	115	2782
BAA	630c	+1	644	571	3789	GloxoSmithKline	1465c	+11	1544	1107	1024	Parity Gaming	105	-1	176	71	8400
BAC Sys.	348c	+2c	349	224	1010	GUS	911	+7	989	821	1237	Peasdon	549c	-2	694	602	1374
Bancys	614c	+7c	614	519	3944	Hammerson	988	-2	999	780	2260	Prudential	534	+4	542	414	7491
BDO Grp.	559	-8c	574	344	2422	Hanson	594c	-5c	609	409	1030	Rocket Bencher	1820	-4	1837	1513	1046
BDO Intl.	870c	+10	916	564	2422	HBOs	887	+6c	912	730	3353	Roed Elevator	509c	-3	553	461	1036
BDO Grp.	1148	+7	1173	917	1008	Hilton Group	344c	+2c	356	257	1942	Rentokil Intl.	161	+1c	173	139	7779
BDO Group	610	-6	692	553	1009	HSBC Hldgs.	945c	-3c	949	825	5562	Reunert Grp.	394c	+4c	426	351	1047
BP	587c	-6	683	500	1011	Imp. Tobacco Grp.	327	-	336	229	1032	Royal Bank Scot.	516c	+1c	519	443	1115
Bp	769c	-1c	771	438	1008	Imp. Tobacco Grp.	1714	+6	1719	1336	1271	Royal & Sun All.	115c	+2c	115	73	7482
BT Airways	310c	+5c	320	215	6258	Intercon. Hotel	787	-1	798	612	3729	Sainsbury (U)	223c	+23	2414	1430	6999
BT AmeriTel	1304	-3	1329	857	1003	Intl Power	244	+3	252	150	6025	Scot. & Sth. Enrgy	1011	-	1011	815	6027
BT Group	1026c	+9c	1044	790	1128	ITV	109c	-2c	130	101	2145	Scot. Power	534c	-2	587	386	6028
BSkyB	497	-59c	491	3362	1009	Johnson, Math.	1270	-19	1289	915	1280	Seven Trent	1027	+7	1059	885	4015
BT Group	219c	+4c	235	197	1012	Kingsfisher	743c	-3	758	539	4018	Shire Pharmd.	725	+5	726	519	3200
Calve & Wile	120c	-	164	-	-	Knightsbridge	223	+2c	216	201	588	Smith & Nephew	506c	+1c	558	451	1434
Cadbury-Soh.	558	-2	594	459	1016	Land Secs.	1596	+20	1599	1235	1035	Smiths Group	976c	+5	978	764	1437
Cann Energy	1898	-27	2018	1042	3643	Land Secs.	1596	+20	1599	1235	1035	Stand. Chart	1296	+2	1294	924	4887
Capita Group	392	+2c	394	245	2623	Land Secs.	1596	+20	1599	1235	1035	Tate & Lyle	525c	+5c	549	440	4665
Carnival	3230c	+25c	3241	2637	2568	Land Secs.	1596	+20	1599	1235	1035	Tesco	312c	+2c	335	294	1056

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Source: www.bloomberg.com

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## AUSSIES WAVER OVER LSE PRICE

THE Takeover Panel has told an Aussie bank to put up or shut up if it is going to bid for the **London Stock Exchange**.

**Macquarie Bank** has until December 15 to make a bid but it has hinted it is too expensive, being valued at £1.5bn.

Shares in the LSE fell by 9p, to 595p, as the wrangle continued.

The Australian bank had hoped to form a consortium to bid for the Stock Exchange when it announced its interest in August.

But it said: "The significant increase in speculation since that time and its impact on the LSE's share price has made any assessment of the fundamental value of the LSE increasingly challenging."

It added: "Macquarie takes a disciplined view on valuation."

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It added: "Macquarie takes a disciplined view on valuation."

Bid speculation has sent the LSE share price soaring by 74% since last October.

The remaining bidder is the European exchange operator **Euronext**.

It is in the process of talking to its own shareholders about a possible bid.



# DAILY STAR Mobiles

## Our consumer guide to the latest mobile phones in the market place

AS mobile sales continue to hot up for Christmas, it seems that cameras are a top priority for many shoppers, according to a new survey.

Internet data firm Hitwise has just produced a report highlighting which mobile handsets are proving most popular with consumers.

Up to a third of all new phone purchases are made in the run-up to Christmas, and mobile operators are busy ramping up activity during this critical sales period.

The most popular models include the Samsung D600, Motorola V3 and Nokia 8800. While all three models have integrated MP3 music players, they are essentially camera phones. The Samsung D600 has a 2-megapixel camera plus powerful 4x digital zoom

that can take print-quality images; the super slim V3 has a high quality integrated VGA camera, also with 4x digital zoom; and the Nokia 8800 features an integrated 0.5 megapixel camera and good quality video recorder.

Other handsets being snapped up by the Christmas shoppers include the Sony Ericsson W550i, the latest music phone in the manufacturer's Walkman range, which comes with a 1.3-megapixel camera, and the Motorola ROKR E1, which has an iTunes interface that makes downloading and playing music tracks a breeze.

Fans of I'm a Celebrity - Get Me Out of Here! can get involved in the action by downloading a new mobile phone game based on the hit show.

The game is based on the famous

Bushtucker Trials, in which the celebs do battle with all kinds of jungle creepy crawlies in order to win food.

Developed by mobile entertainment distributor Player X, the game is available for the two weeks that the show is on air and can be downloaded from network operators Orange, O2 and T-Mobile.

Meanwhile food fans can now access Jamie Oliver on their mobiles, via Vodafone live! With 3G, by downloading film clips of the TV chef making over 100 of his top recipes.

You can search for your own recipe, and with downloadable picture messages showing a list of ingredients, there's no need to write out a shopping list.

Whether you're waiting for the bus or trailing around the supermarket

wondering what to cook for dinner, help will always be on hand.

Mobile Express is currently offering the Sony Ericsson W550i free on T-Mobile with 200 any time any network minutes and 100 texts per month. The monthly line rental of £33 per month has been reduced to half price line rental for 18 months by redemption, on an 18-month contract, making a saving of £297.00.

For more information call  
**0800 096 9765**  
or visit  
[www.mobileexpress.co.uk](http://www.mobileexpress.co.uk)



Sony Ericsson W550i

# UP TO half price FOR LIFE

LINE RENTAL

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EXPRESS DEAL OF THE DAY

FREE SONY ERICSSON W550i

QUOTE REF: 24L05AB

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK\*

by redemption: £16.50 per mth normally £33 per mth

200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS

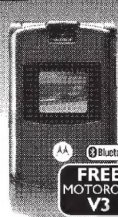
YOU SAVE £322

FREE ACCESSORIES

Hot Handsets - top sellers

1. Samsung D600
2. Sony Ericsson W550i
3. Nokia N70

## AMAZING NEW DEALS!



REF:24L05AC

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £75 CASHBACK\*  
by redemption: £16.50 per mth normally £33 per mth  
200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS  
SAVE £372



REF:24L05AD

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £25 CASHBACK\*  
by redemption: £16.50 per mth normally £33 per mth  
200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS  
SAVE £322



REF:24L05AE

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE + £50 CASHBACK\*  
by redemption: £16.50 per mth normally £33 per mth  
200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS  
SAVE £347



REF:24L05AF

1/2 PRICE FOR LIFE\*  
by redemption: £16.50 per mth normally £33 per mth  
200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS  
SAVE £297



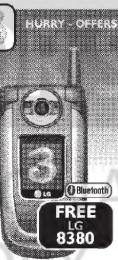
REF:24L05AG

£3.99 FOR 8 MTHS\*  
by redemption: £30 per mth thereafter  
200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS  
SAVE £208.08



REF:24L05AH

£3.99 FOR 10 MTHS\*  
by redemption: £30 per mth thereafter  
200 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS  
SAVE £260.10



REF:24L05AJ

£1.99 FOR 10 MTHS\*  
by redemption: £30 per mth thereafter  
500 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS  
SAVE £280.10



REF:24L05AK

1/2 PRICE FOR 8 MTHS\*  
by redemption: £30 per mth thereafter  
500 MINS ANYTIME ANY NETWORK 100 TEXTS  
SAVE £120

## Mobile Express latest news

Massively improved T-Mobile offers

Now you can get extra cashback, plus, after 18 months you can continue to enjoy 1/2 price line rental until you upgrade or change price plan on T-Mobile.

New Nokia N70

The amazing multifunctional N70 is now available on a great 3 deal.

Deals on 3 - ending soon!

Take advantage of our great deals on 3 - before they're gone!

FREE

- 14 day peace of mind guarantee
- Next day delivery
- Calls to other networks\*

- In-Car Charger\*
- In-Car Holder
- Hands Free Kit\*
- Itemised Billing\*
- Voicemail\*
- Text Messages\*

PLUS FREE INSURANCE FOR 3 MONTHS - THEREAFTER £5.99 PER MONTH CANCELLABLE AT ANY TIME††

FREE! DIGITAL CLOCK/THERMOMETER WITH EVERY ORDER

FREE! BLUETOOTH HEADSET ON SELECTED PHONES AND TARIFFS

## TOP TIPS ON BUYING DIRECT

- Make sure you're getting expert advice.
- Always ask how quickly your phone will be delivered.
- Check that you get a 14 day peace of mind guarantee.
- Make sure you get £20 cash if you order more than one phone.
- Find out what free accessories are included.
- Check you don't have to pay an admin or processing fee.

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# TRUCKING INDUSTRY STEPS UP A GEAR

**TRUCKING** is fast becoming an attractive career option for many. Gone are the days of exhausted and under-paid drivers confined to their cabins for hours on end without a break. Instead, new legislation has helped haul the industry into the 21st century giving it a make-over that even Trinnie and Susannah would find hard to top.

Andrew Horner, chairperson of the Recruitment and Employment Confederation's (REC) Drivers Sector Group, which is made up of over 200 recruiters that specialise in this area, explains how improved industry standards and legislation

such as the Working Time Directive has helped foster such a change. He says, "limiting the working week to 48 hours over a 17 week period means drivers can achieve the work-life balance they deserve."

Although the Working Time Directive has created substantial extra administration for employers, positive effects have also resulted including regulated employee breaks. Truckers can now enjoy half an hour's break when working 6-9 hours and 45 minutes for 9 hours or more. Andrew Horner continues, "Not only are the breaks regulated but the directive also makes sure that truckers get at least one rest day a week and four weeks holiday a

year. However, it is crucial for workers to ensure that they are working with employers or agencies who understand and apply these regulations."

Due to greater regularity of hours and the guarantee of four weeks holiday, there is nothing to stop women combining a rewarding career in trucking with their family commitments. Horner says, "If you thought driving wasn't for you because you didn't fit the traditional stereotype of a trucker, think again - you could be just what the profession is looking for and with industry standards on the rise, now is the time to take advantage."

Tom Hadley, director of external

affairs at the REC adds, "UK business is waking up to the advantages that a truly diverse workforce can bring, and the recruitment industry is keen to play a key role in helping to deliver real change to UK workplaces, particularly in sectors such as driving."

If you are considering a career in trucking, it is crucial that you work with a reputable recruitment agency. Make sure your health and safety needs are given priority by

logging on to the REC website <http://www.rec.co.uk/rec/sectorgroups/drivers/asp> for a full list of REC members that sign up to the strict Code of Good Recruitment.



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# STAR RACING



**CLASS ACT:** Bewleys Berry makes a winning return at Wetherby while (inset) Lan-kawi (right) outpoints Dafarabad

# YOU TO BEW-TY

**BEWLEYS BERRY** created a big impression with a resounding victory on his debut over fences in the Harry Atkinson Memorial Beginners' Chase at Wetherby.

Howard Johnson's imposing chestnut was one of last season's top staying novice hurdlers and he made a successful transition to chasing with a foot-perfect display. Graham Lee allowed the 4-7 favourite stride on at the fourth fence and, jumping like an old hand, he was never seriously threatened - apart from briefly by a loose horse - to come home 12 lengths ahead of the runner-up, Briery Fox.

Bookmakers VC Bet were suitably impressed and slashed his odds for the Royal & SunAlliance Chase at the Cheltenham Festival into 10-1 from 16-1.

## Engine

Owner Graham Wylie was delighted with the performance.

He said: "That was a very good start. "Graham said he was a bit worried by the loose horse, apart from that he said he was never off the bridge and the horse has a big engine. He said the horse loves his jumping."

"After falling at Cheltenham and being pulled up at Aintree that will be a nice confidence booster for him."

"I don't know where he'll go next but I'm sure Howard will have it planned."

J P McNamara switched from Lingfield's abandoned meeting and the move paid off when he landed a 1,065-1 double on Whispered Promises and She's The Lady for Alcester-based permit holder Roger Brookhouse.

Meanwhile, Ladbrokes reported that Redemption and Kandjar D'Allier were the big market movers yesterday for

by **PETER THICKETT**

Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury.

Redemption is 16s from 25-1 and Kandjar D'Allier 14-1 from 20s. Totesport have also cut both horses with Redemption on 20-1 from 28s.

Carl Llewellyn is hoping a clean round of jumping can see Redemption go close.

Nigel Twiston-Davies' 10-year-old hasn't won since January 2004 but was travelling well towards the head affairs when falling two fences from home in the Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham two weeks ago.

"He would have a good chance barring accidents," said Llewellyn.

Reflecting on the Paddy Power, he continued: "I think he was going very well until he fell and he would have had a good chance of winning."

"He won impressively in a decent race a few years ago and that was the last time he won in fact, so hopefully he will remember."

## Sneak

Redemption's last win over fences came in a competitive handicap on Hennessy day at Newbury two years ago, and his lack of winning form has allowed him to sneak into the handicap for this weekend's Grade Three event on 10st 2lb.

The jockey added: "Trabalgion is a worthy favourite but he is a short price. I think Comply Or Die and Kandjar D'Allier have got decent chances as well."

Timmy Murphy and Henrietta Knight will appear before a Jockey Club disciplinary panel today to appeal over the punishment they received regarding the running and riding of Harringay at Towcester earlier this month.

## YESTERDAY'S WINNERS AND PRICES

### CHEPSTOW

12.30 (2m 4f): 1, MISTER QUASIMODO (J Tizzard 6-4 fav); 2, Kildonan (W Hutchinson 20-1); 3, Glasker Mill (S Thomas 2-1). 21, 3/21, 11 ran. C J Tizzard, Sherborne.

Tote: £2.40; pl: £1.10, £3.90, £1.20.

exacta: £55.90; csf: £25.20.

1.05 (2m 4f): 1, GUNGADU (R Walsh 1-5 fav); 2, Wellipit (C Llewellyn 12-1); 3, Caveman (T Doyle 15-1). 211, 10/1 ran. P Nicholls, Shepton Mallet.

Tote: £3.60; pl: £1.02, £1.90, £3.40.

exacta: £31.00; csf: £2.60, NR. Taking My Cut.

1.35 (2m): 1, BEYONDTHEREALM (C Honour 5-1); 2, Amanapuri (C Llewellyn 4-1); 3, Rojaban (P J Brennan 7-1 fav). Urban Dream 7-2 ft fav. 2/21, 11/1 ran. J Frost, Buckfastleigh.

Tote: £5.60; pl: £1.50, £2.00, £1.50.

exacta: £26.00; csf: £24.63.

2.10 (2m): 1, BOKERY LAD (D Croose 5-1); 2, Afro Man (N Fahilly 9-4 fav); 3, Reflex Blue (A O'Keefe 14-1). 11, 1/41, 7 ran. C Kellell, Burton-on-Trent.

Tote: £6.20; pl: £1.90, £1.70, £0.70.

exacta: £18.90; csf: £16.24.

2.45 (3m): 1, ONY VA (R Johnson 9-3); 2, Irishkawa Bellevue (D Croose 5-1); 3, Keepers Head (R Walford 7-1). Shanavan 11-4 fav. NK, 7/21, 7 ran. R Phillips, Moreton-in-Marsh.

Tote: £5.90; pl: £2.50, £3.30, exacta: £26.40; csf: £25.91; tricast: £132.28.

NR: Monteforte.

3.20 (2m 3f): 1, HIERS DE BROUAGE (S J Crane 9-1); 2, The Extra Man (W Hutchinson 6-1); 3,

Tradingup (P J Brennan 4-1), Alceop 11-4 fav. 1/21, 3/21, 8 ran. J Portman, Compton.

Tote: £11.00; pl: £2.40, £2.20, £2.10.

exacta: £45.20; csf: £56.77; tricast: £233.65. NR: The Holy Bee, Roaringwater.

3.58 (2m): 1, ZANZIBAR BOY (T Scudamore 5-2); 2, Earth Moving (R Walsh 9-1); 3, Leading Authority (J Tizzard 2-1 fav). 3/21, 9/1, 14 ran. H Morrison, East Hiley.

Tote: £3.30; pl: £1.80, £3.00, £1.10.

exacta: £39.40; csf: £23.82.

QUADPOLE: £38.20

PLACEPOLE: £52.40

### WETHERBY

12.25 (2m 7f): 1, BRANDY WINE (J Ennis 7-2 fav); 2, Notaprom (W Kennedy 7-1); 3, Lucky Judge (D C Costello 10-1). Shd, 121, 12 ran. L Lungo, Carruthersdown.

Tote: £3.70; pl: £1.90, £2.60, £3.00.

exacta: £26.00; csf: £27.33; tricast: £220.95. NR: Bdelium, Maraud.

12.55 (2m 1f): 1, BEWLEYS BERRY (G Lee 4-7 fav); 2, Briery Fox (M Bradburne 13-2); 3, Hot Weld (K Mercer 4-1). 121, 8/1, 7 ran. J Howard Johnson, Crook.

Tote: £1.50; pl: £1.10, £3.20, exacta: £3.20; csf: £4.58.

1.25 (2m): 1, LANKAWI (D Harding 12-1); 2, Dafarabad (A P McCoy 15-8 fav); 3, Mahogany Blaze (T Siddall 16-1). 7/21, 4/1, 13 ran. J O'Keefe, Leighton.

Tote: £14.40; pl: £2.30, £1.40, £2.10.

exacta: £33.50; csf: £32.53.

2.00 (2m): 1, POLAR GUNNER (A Dobbin 7-1); 2, Super Nomad (M T Grenville 6-1); 3, Argento (F Keniry 6-1). Encore Cadoual 4-1 fav. NK, 121,

10 ran. J Jefferson, Milton.

Tote: £7.50; pl: £2.90, £2.20, £2.30.

exacta: £63.90; tricast: £479.90; csf: £47.44; tricast: £264.90.

2.35 (2m): 1, WHISPERED PROMISES (J P McNamara 40-1); 2, L'Astrotique (K Mercer 4-6 fav); 3, The Duke's Speech (J M Maguire 7-1). 6/1, 3/1, 23 ran. R Brookhouse, Alcester.

Tote: £42.30; pl: £11.70, £1.10, £2.80.

exacta: £157.90; csf: £67.72. NR: Crackington, Overdrawn.

3.10 (2m 7f): 1, SHARP BELLINE (D Elsworth 5-1); 2, Manbow (G Lee 7-4 fav); 3, King Bee (M Bradburne 12-1). 8/1, 1/41, 9 ran. Mrs S J Smith, Bingley.

Tote: £8.10; pl: £2.00, £1.30, £3.50.

exacta: £16.00; csf: £13.70; tricast: £99.88.

3.40 (2m): 1, SHE'S THE LADY (J P McNamara 25-1); 2, Blackbriery Thyme (Mr T Greenway 25-1); 3, Dillay Brook (J M Maguire 11-2). Lady Wilde 7-4 fav. 4/1, 5/1, 19 ran. R Brookhouse, Alcester.

Tote: £22.80; pl: £4.30, £2.80, £2.10.

exacta: £650.70; csf: £520.02. NR: Cloudina.

QUADPOLE: £31.50

PLACEPOLE: £34.50

JACKPOT: not won. £45,953.59 carried over to Taunton.

LINGFIELD abandoned due to frost.

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TODAY!

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Exclusive from our trackside spies

simon delamere

SELECTIVE QUALITY ADVICE

Same contact as last Thursday's Lord Neilsson W5/2

has marked my card for today - so expect another BIG day.

0906 664 09 97

Message available from 10.30am daily

Call cost £1.50 per min from a BT land line (Golfcall, Alderley Edge, Cheshire, SK9 7JL)

Journalist, author and expert on horseracing systems

MORDIN

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Latest: Kew Green W9/1

Siberian Highness W85/40

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## TAUNTON ON 09055 141 603 (613)

**TRACKFACTS** Right-hand oval track of one mile two furlongs. There are 4 fences in each of the two straights and five hurdles per circuit, with a short run-in of 150yds.

**12.30 JUVENILE NOVICES' SELLING HURDLE** Class G (9 flights) 2m1f (12 runners) £2,330

1	ARNO RIVER (24)	D Bronte 10	A Jenkins (7)	39
2	COMPTON QUAY (8)	Miss K George 10	B Hitchcott	+68
3	DARKO KARIM (10/8)	R Hodges 10	R Greene	47
4	GALAXY DANCER (F19)	N King 10	C Honour	51
5	INCHCAPE ROCK (12)	J G O'Shea 10	V Slattery	65
6	JAMAARON (F35)	W G M Turner 10	R Lucey-Butler (7)	30
7	KING MARRAKECH (F42)	M Usher 10	D Crosse	—
8	LIGHTENING FIRE (F54/P)	B J Llewellyn 10	O McPhail	—
9	MAGNATE (7)	Ms S Johnson 10	M Rhys Hughes (7)	—
10	SMOKEY THE BEAR (F44)	A P Jones 10	J Goldstein	—
11	MISS DEFYING (18)	R Curtis 10	T Doyle	—
12	STRATHAY (10)(BF)(V)	M P Jones 10	T Scudamore	60

Star Betting: 2-Inchcape Rock, 3-Strathay, 4-Compton Quay, 10-Darko Karim, 25-Jamaaron, 33-Arno River, Galaxy Dancer, 50-others. 2004: La Lamberton, 10-12, (J G Moore, 3-1) M P Jones, 13, ran.

**STARFORM: STRATHAY Dgr: Inchcape Rock**

**1.05 BEAUTY OF BATH MAIDEN HURDLE** Class D (9 flights) 2m1f (14 runners) £5,439

1	ACAMBO (F83)	M P Jones 11	R Greene	—
2	BARATHA BLUE (F24)	M P Jones 11	T Scudamore	—
3	BUTLER SERVICES (7)	Jonjo O'Neill 11	M A Fitzgerald	—
4	DREAMS JEWEL (6/6)(G)	C Roberts 11	O McPhail	70
5	HUCKSTER (F187)	Miss V Williams 6	A O'Keefe	—
6	IRISH (10/4)	H Daly 5	J E Moore	+97
7	ISLAND LIGHT (18)	R Lee 4	T Doyle	70
8	ISLAND LIGHT (18)	P Wegman 5	S Curran	—
9	MICK JEROME (F61)	R Haugen (NOR) 4	A M Batchelor	—
10	SALEPHAN (229)	H Daly 5	M Bradburne	—
11	SPANISH DON (F54)	D Elsworth 7	R Walford	—
12	SUNLEY FUTURE (4)	M Harris 6	B Hitchcott	66
13	TOPKAT (F41/T)	M P Jones 11	T J Malone (3)	—
14	ANNA PANNA (F453)	R Aher 4	S Walsh (7)	—

Star Betting: 3-Spanish Don, 6-Huffy, 7-Acambo, 18-Baratha Blue, Huckster, 10-Butler Services, Mick Jerome, Topkat, 16-others. 2004: Medici, 6-11, (R Thornton, 4-1) Mrs. Jeremy Young, 10, ran.

**STARFORM: IDRIS Danger: Baratha Blue**

**UTTOXETER ON 09055 141 601 (611)**

**TONY LEWIS** 12.20 THE MICK WESTON 12.50 BEST PROFILE 1.25 NOVICES' HURDLE (Div 2)

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**1.40 BEGINNERS' CHASE** Class D (13 fences) 2m1/4 (9 runners) £5,514

1	CHOCKEED (29)(D,G)	P Nicholls 9	J Tizzard	—
2	CROSSBOW CREEK (201)(D,G,S)	M G Rime 7	J E Moore	—
3	HAUKAL (24/G)	R Buckler 8	P Davey (10)	—
4	HE'S THE GAFFER (28/B)	R Buckler 5	B Hitchcott	—
5	JASKINI (8)(D,F,G)	L Corcoran 9	H Ephgrave (5)	—
6	KINGS BROOK (30)	Nick Williams 5	T Doyle	+107
7	NAYODABAYO (14)(D,F,P)	E Williams 5	Paul Moloney	—
8	ZIBELINE (12/G)	B Ellison 8	W Hutchinson	—
9	TYUP POMPEY (35)	Miss J Davis 4	J Goldstein	—

Star Betting: 7-4-Crossbow Creek, 4-Chockeed, 8-He's The Gaffer, Nayodabayo, 10-Kings Brook, Zibeline, 12-Haukal, 20-others. 2004: No corresponding race.

**STARFORM** one occasion. The switch to fences may be the making of him but he is probably best watched.

Zibeline was only just behind the selection over hurdles on official figures but he has failed to fulfil his potential. Today's last conditions will suit but he may prove better over slightly further.

**STARFORM: CROSSBOW CREEK Dgr: Zibeline**

**2.15 LEATH JEWELLERS AND VALUERS' NOVICES' HURDLE** Class D (10 flights) 2m3/4 (10 runners) £7,339

1	PARISIENNE GALE (7)(G,S)	R Ford 6	J T Malone (3)	+86
2	ALLEN MELINA (15/T)	Mrs A Hamilton-Fairley 4	T P Hide	—
3	BALLYMENA (208)(F)	C Roberts 4	L Stephens (5)	—
4	MISS MIDWINTER (14)	P Bowen 5	T Doyle	—
5	CLASSY CHICK (194)	H Daly 4	M Bradburne	—
6	DISTANT ROMANCE (54/G)	M Davidson 6	R Lucey-Butler (7)	48
7	GOTTA GET ON (20)	R Aher 4	T Scudamore	—
8	MISSY MOSCOW (189)(G,S)	H J Evans 7	V Slattery	20
9	PEARLY BAY (217)(S)	M G Rime 7	J E Moore	—

Star Betting: 4-5-Parisiennne Gale, 11-2-Miss Midwinter, 6-Ballymena, 7-Heathley, 8-Valu, 10-Allen Melina, 12-others. 2004: Queen Sonny, 6-10, (S Thomas, 3-1) Mrs. Miss Knight, 5, ran.

**STARFORM: PARISIENNE GALE Dgr: Classy Chick**

**STARFORM: CROSSBOW CREEK Dgr: Zibeline**

**STARFORM: PARISIENNE GALE Dgr: Classy Chick**

**STARFORM: CROSSBOW CREEK Dgr: Zibeline**

**STARFORM: PARISIENNE GALE Dgr: Classy Chick**

**STARFORM: CROSSBOW CREEK Dgr: Zibeline**

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**STARFORM: PARISIENNE GALE Dgr: Classy Chick**

**STARFORM: CROSSBOW CREEK Dgr: Zibeline**

## AT THE RACES

**TONY LEWIS** 12.30 INCHCAPE ROCK 1.05 SPANISH DON 1.40 CROSSBOW CREEK 2.15 PARISIENNE GALE 3.20 MIDDLEHAM PARK 3.20 DAMEARISCO (nb)

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# ALL THE ACES

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THROUGH THE VICTOR CHANDLER GROUP

## NEW DAILY GAMING COLUMN

Following up on our recent column about bluffing, a player on dailystarpoker.com mailed in with this famous tale of a mega bluff carried out by World Series of Poker Champ Stu Ungar.

### FAMOUS BLUFFS

It's 1997 at the World Series final table and Stu Ungar looks to be in the driving seat. Having been chip leader from the outset you might have expected Stu to coast a little. Not a bit of it. Stu attacked anyone and everyone and raised on seven successive hands. Was he bluffing? You can bet on it, but none of the other players wanted to risk elimination by challenging him. Eventually, Vegas pro Ronald Stanley managed to steal the blinds a couple of times and positioned himself just \$200,000 shy of Ungar's mighty stash.

It looked like Stanley was about to overtake Ungar and inevitably they ended up in the kind of heads up ordinary poker players dream about. Ungar is in the big blind and Stanley simply calls. The flop comes down Ace of Spades, Nine of Hearts, Six of Spades. Ron Stanley, an extremely savvy pro, had noted every time Ungar flopped top pair with an Ace, he checked the flop and bet the turn. Stu again checked behind Stanley, indicating he may well have the Ace again. The turn produced an Eight and Stanley, nursing a Nine in his hand and second pair, wagered \$25,000. Stu immediately raised \$60,000 and Stanley replied with a call. The river threw down a King. Stanley checked and Ungar bet \$225,000. Ron Stanley pondered momentarily and folded. In typical psycho style Ungar turned up his hole cards to reveal Queen and Ten. He had nothing. It was a mega bluff and Stanley had thrown away the top hand.

### TIP OF THE DAY

The very best use of the bluff comes when the community cards are indicating that a probable flush or a straight are out there. A big bet winging in when there's say three Spades on the board or three consecutive cards is going to be treated much more seriously than a big bet coming in when the board isn't betraying anything of a particularly threatening nature. Keep your eye out for these situations as they develop and be ready to load up if it fits in with your strategy for the hand.

### POKER ON ITV

As if to finally recognise the sensational momentum in poker's online popularity, ITV 4 has allotted no less than seventy two hours of poker programming for the first two seasons of the World Poker Tour, in the hope of duplicating the tour's amazing success on television in the USA. How long before poker overtakes soccer in the viewing stakes. Check out dailystarpoker.com and see what all the fuss is about.

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# CRICKET: Flintoff magic gives England hope



ROAR POWER: Freddie after pole-axeing local hero Shahid Afridi

by RODNEY WHITE in Faisalabad

**TODAY'S a big day for Ian Botham – his 50th birthday. And it could be an equally important landmark for the new Beefy – Freddie Flintoff.**

It was Flintoff's never-say-die guts which kept English hopes alive in the Second Test yesterday and hopes of an unlikely victory surely rest on his shoulders on the final day.

The England all-rounder has, without question, now stepped into the boots of the legendary Botham.

It will certainly take one of those miraculous performances to enable England to level the series as Pakistan were pegged back to 183-6 a lead of 199 in their second innings.

But it was Flintoff's two wickets in two balls shortly after tea that forced the door open again for England and raised hopes of a seventh successive Test series win.

### Hero

Flintoff, who took 3-46, had asked for an extra over in the final session. And it paid off as he had Mohammad Yousuf edging on and then next ball knocked out local hero Shahid Afridi's middle-stump with a reverse-swinging delivery.

"I asked for one more over. The ball was reversing a little bit and I'd hit quite a nice rhythm from that end," he said.

"I was running in quite nicely and I felt I had another couple in me."

He meant overs – but was right on the wickets score, too. Yousuf's dismissal ended a fourth-wicket stand of 56 and Afridi had slaughtered the England attack in his first innings 92.

"We saw from the way he played the other day Afridi can take a game



DUCKING IT: Flintoff bumps Salman Butt

away from you very quickly, so it's crucial to get him out cheaply if you can," Flintoff added.

"We stuck in all day – everybody worked hard. We've seen out here that a couple of quick wickets can change the game – and we've managed to get back in it."

One man that Flintoff could not shift, though, was Pakistan captain Inzamam, whose defiance put him on the verge of another half-century.

Flintoff had earlier seen off opener Shoaib Malik, then Matthew Hoggard caught Younis Khan leg-before.

England had a little luck on their side, too, over the dismissal only four runs later of Butt, who made 50.

He would not have been on strike had umpire Darrell Hair not sent the left-hander back when he picked up a single from the previous ball, only to be judged to have run up the middle of the wicket.

Steve Harmison gave England another boost just before the close when Kamran Akmal followed the swing to be caught behind.

The England paceman had also done his bit with the bat in a last-wicket stand with Shaun Udal that added 47 precious runs.

## SCOREBOARD

Overnight: Pakistan 462 (Inzamam 109).

England 391-7 (Ball 115)

ENGLAND First Innings

Giles b Shahid Afridi 26

Udal not out 33

Hoggard b Shahid Afridi 2

Harmison not out 16

Extras b1 b12 w1 nb22 25

Total (132.3 overs) 446

Fall: 1-33 2-39 3-107 4-261 5-272 6-327 7-376 8-395 9-399

Bowling: Shoaib Akhtar 27-4-93-2, Naved-ul-Hasan 20-2-63-2, Mohammad Sami 19-4-51-1, Shahid Afridi 30-3-95-4, Danish Kaneria 32-3-102-0, Shoaib Malik 4-0-29-0

PAKISTAN Second Innings Close

Shoaib Malik c Butt b Flintoff 26

Salman Butt bowled by Udal 50

Younis Khan bowled by Hoggard 27

Mohammad Yousuf b Flintoff 20

Inzamam ul-Hasan not out 41

Shahid Afridi b Flintoff 0

Kamran Akmal c G Jones b Harmison 9

Rameez Naved-ul-Hasan not out 0

Extras b4 lb4 nb2 10

Total 6 wickets (66 overs) 183

Fall: 1-54 2-104 3-108 4-164 5-164 6-183

Bowling: Hoggard 9-0-28-1, Flintoff 19-2-46-3, Harmison 14-2-41-1, Giles 13-2-35-0, Udal 11-2-25-1

## 5 FOR FUN

- Which three-time Derby winning jockey will race over hurdles in Britain and Ireland this winter?
- Eddie Jones is coach of which rugby union international country?
- What was the tongue-twisting score of a Scottish Second Division match between Forfar and East Fife, in the 1963-64 season?
- Which English football club play home games at the Kassam Stadium?
- In which year were athletics events at the Olympics last held on a cinder track?

ANSWERS: Page 61

## SPORTWORD

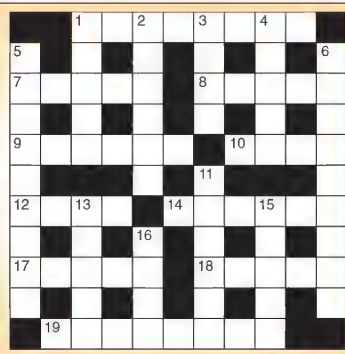
### ACROSS

- The ..... nickname of Plymouth Argyle (8)
- Apparatus for male gymnasts (5)
- Irish League football club (5)
- Essex and England wicketkeeper (6)
- ..... Aouita, men's 5,000 metres Olympic champion in 1984 (4)
- Jacky ..... Le Mans winner on six occasions (4)
- Greg ..... twice Open golf champion (6)
- Ian ..... Levante and Republic of Ireland defender (5)
- ..... Hughes, Liverpool, Wolves and England defender (5)
- James ..... Lancashire and England fast bowler (8)

### DOWN

- Olivier ..... former formula One driver from France (5)
- ..... Piggott, Derby winning jockey on nine occasions (6)
- ..... Schumacher, brother of Michael (4)
- Jose ..... Olazabal, Spanish golfer (5)
- Terry ..... snooker world champion in 1979 (9)
- Les ..... GPR, Newcastle and England striker (9)
- Tranmere ..... Football League club (6)
- ..... Bracken, England scrum-half (5)
- Winner of the St Leger in 2001 (5)

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## Robbo's eyeing try blitz

by DEAN WILSON

ANDY ROBINSON has made five changes to the England starting 15 as he aims for a try-fest against Samoa on Saturday.

Out go Ben Cohen, Jamie Noon, Matt Dawson, Phil Vickery and Danny Grewcock and in come Tom Voisey, James Simpson-Daniel, Harry Ellis, Matt Stevens and Louis Deacon.

Simpson-Daniel has been recalled into the centre to ignite the back-line, which has yet to sparkle this season.

### Pace

The Gloucester man will earn his eighth cap since bursting onto the scene in 2002.

Robinson said: "We want to see James bring what we know he can to the game, which is very good handling, great running skills and fantastic pace."

Simpson-Daniel said: "I've got to bring the best of my game out while filling some big boots too."

Team: Lewsey, Cueto, Simpson-Daniel, Tindall, Voisey, Hodgson, Ellis, Sheridan, Thompson, Stevens, Borthwick, Deacon, Sander-son, Moody, Cory. Replacements: Mears, Freshwater, Shaw, Forrester, Dawson, Barkley, Vardell.

# WARREN FIGHT MADE ME SICK



KEEP DUCKING: Ricky Hatton stays cool before Saturday's big title fight

**RICKY HATTON** says his split with promoter Frank Warren made him so ill that he was forced to miss training.

Hatton meets teak-tough Colombian Carlos Maussa in a light-welterweight unification showdown at the Sheffield Arena on Saturday, confessing that his build-up has been far from ideal.

The IBF world champion revealed: "This has been the most difficult time of my career. Things have got very personal with Frank and some of the hurtful things that have been said badly upset me."

"I made myself ill with frustration and had to take a couple of days out of the gym. My training has been affected but my performance against Maussa won't be."

Hatton will box under the Dennis Hobson's Fight Academy umbrella at Sheffield following his acrimonious departure from Warren, the promoter who guided him to the top of the pile.

### Damages

Warren took out an injunction to prevent the Maussa fight taking place but then withdrew it.

But he is still taking legal action against the Hatton camp for damages for breach of contract.

Right now, though, Hatton is fully focused on Saturday's bout.

He said: "It has made me all the more determined to go out there and unleash all the frustration I've got in me."

The fight, screened live on Sky Box Office, is a rare venture out-

side of his home city Manchester.

And the pressure is on him to deliver more than ever following the stunning June win over Aussie legend Kostya Tszyu which saw him become the best fighter in the 10-stone division.

Hatton said: "Tszyu was one of the greatest nights of my life but Sugar Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler and Thomas Hearns had several. That's what I want."

"To be a world champion is special but to beat the best in the world in my division and one of the best pound-for-pound fighters is a great achievement."

"But the best is yet to come. I've become a good world champion but I want to be a great one."

## Lee out in cold

WALES coach Mike Ruddock has brought in Matthew Watkins and switched captain Gareth Thomas to full-back for Saturday's Test against Australia in Cardiff.

Ruddock has kept changes to a minimum after a much-improved performance in last weekend's 33-16 defeat to South Africa so Watkins replaces Thomas at outside centre with Lee Byrne dropping to the bench.

Ruddock said: "The rationale for selection was to minimise the changes this week and build on the performance against South Africa."

## No Ebi ending

by IAN WHITTELL

ENGLISH basketball player Ndudi Ebi has been released by the Minnesota Timberwolves, having been paid £15,000 a minute for his trouble.

Ebi, born in London to Nigerian parents, was selected in the first round of the NBA draft in 2003 and handed a guaranteed \$1.2m contract.

However, after taking part in just 19 games, Ebi, 21, was released by the Wolves last week.

THE BOTTLE TO BE DIFFERENT.

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## TEXTS TO WOOLY

□ Greatest players in the prem should lead by example on & off the pitch. Roy Keane was a dirty player & ill-tempered. **M. Graham**

□ REASON WE DIDN'T GET RONALDINHO WAS DOWN 2 KENYON. HE KNEW HE WAS LEAVING 4 CHELSEA. **MAN UTD FAN**

□ I agree wot a Grt goal Ruidz woz i think Collins John goal against Boro is a definite contend 4 goal of the month or even Goal of the season. **Class Utd fan**

□ Ferguson's so called display of contempt 4 the media wholly illustrated what the majority of this country feel about media parasites who produce nothing & add nothing 2 our quality of life. **Phil Alex**

□ Alan Hansen and that other little t\*\*\* with a tash aint got a clue what they r on about keane was brilliant in the premier-ship not the best. **Lee terry gillingham**

□ Hansen is right in a liverpool fan and would love to have had keane at anfield in his prime a proper footballer who still is a cut above most others except gerard and lampard. **Laupy**

□ Keane best player prems eva had, zidane deschamps n davidz cudnt cope w/ him. **ANON**

□ Bergkamp. Zola best players ever 2 grace premiership. **Ginger.S'ton**

## OTHER TEXTS

□ Geordie maggots loyal? Biggest my th ever. 10,000 against oxford before your saviour with the bad hairdo joined. And yes i can spell loyly. **ash**

□ To Jan Belfast, Fergie has done wonders for our club and has brought success. Dont jump on band wagon and slag him. Keano and Becks great players but we lost great players before and still won things. United in free fall? Go slag somebody else off Hail Sir Alex. **Red Suggy**

□ To the rams, ur even worse this season. we re comin 4 ya! beware. **huggy pne**

□ Jack scum will never b bigger than cardiff. **bluebird reg**

□ Thank goodness for fog! Bolton boys love fog. BWFC EURO TOUR 05/06. **IGGYBOY**

□ Hope youre ready for a hammering on saturday. bulls, your place stinks of bulls\*\*\*\*. losers. turner the turnip and his team of cr-pxxx. **sid&Sparky@ecfc**

□ DYA KNOW V JESUS WASNT BORN IN ANFIELD? COZ UD NEVVA FIND 3 WISE MEN N A VIRGIN THERE! HAPPY XMAS 2 EFC TEXT MANIACS. X. **JOANIE @ EFC**

□ Bill Kenwright there's a young Evertonian who's banged in SEVEN TEEN goals so far this season. TRUNDLE 2 the bank & give Swansea the ackers **RAPID - WOOLY**

SERIOUSLY football

Jimmy's ready to prove a point

# HASSEL: YOU CAN BAIK ON ME



**IAN MURTAGH**  
in Alkmaar

**JIMMY FLOYD HASSELBAINK** tonight returns to the scene where his career almost stalled, intent on underlining his status as one of Europe's top marksmen.

The Middlesbrough striker, 33, has come a long way from the time when he mustered just two goals in 35 games for AZ Alkmaar after an equally dud spell at Telstar.

Having spent three months in prison for handling stolen goods and becoming involved with drug dealers during his troublesome teen years, Hasselbaink's prospects both on and off the pitch looked grim.

But his career took off 13 years ago when he swapped Dutch football for a life in Portugal with Campomaiorense. And he's not looked back since those traumatic times in Alkmaar.

And while Hasselbaink flew into Holland last night for Boro's UEFA Cup tie against their chief rivals in Group D insisting he has nothing to prove, he declared: "I'm 10 times the player I was back then."

"At the start of my career I didn't help myself and wasn't professional enough."

"I was always late. I skipped training. I used to lie in and say I was ill. I thought I'd already made it. I was too big for my boots. I thought they couldn't sack me."

"When Alkmaar released me I looked for another club but no one wanted me or couldn't offer the money I needed to pay my rent, my car, water, gas and all those things. That's why I went non-league."

## Strange

Hasselbaink hasn't stopped scoring since moving to Portugal having played for Leeds, Chelsea and Boro as well as Boavista and Atletico Madrid.

He added: "Gradually, people started putting their arms around my shoulders and believing in me."

"It is quite strange how in Holland nobody believed in me and I didn't get the opportunity and I had to go abroad to produce the goods."

Hasselbaink revisited his eventful past in his recently published autobiography and believes fate has decreed Boro and AZ are drawn in the same group. He said: "It's strange doing the book and then going back. It's good timing but it's quite frightening."

"I will be coming back 10 times better. I've achieved something while I've been gone. I've become a Dutch international. "I can go back with my head held high and they will look at me as having done something."

Boro boast a 100 per cent record after two games, while the Dutch side have



**DUTCH OF CLASS:** Hasselbaink and (inset) boss McClaren

three points having played just once. Both are likely to reach the knockout stages, with Steve McClaren's side needing just a point to progress.

DRUGS cheat Abel Xavier last night entered football's hall of shame when he became the first-ever Premiership player to be banned for taking a performance-enhancing substance.

The Portuguese bad boy is facing the sack from Middlesbrough tomorrow after being handed an 18-month suspension by UEFA.

Boro refused to confirm their decision on the eve of their UEFA Cup tie against AZ Alkmaar with a point guaranteeing their place in the last 32.

But commenting on the verdict from Nyon in Switzerland, Boro manager Steve McClaren said: "There is no place for this in football and we will always condemn it."

"Abel is not going to play this season whether he appeals or not."

"I have only just heard the news and it is disappointing but our reaction will come in the next couple of days when we've had time to digest everything."

## TEAMS

### AZ ALKMAAR (probable):

Timmer, Steinsson, Jaliens, Mathijssen, De Cler, Schaars, Landzaat, Van Galen, Sektioui, Arveladze, Perez.

### BORO (probable):

Jones, Riggott, Southgate, Ehiogu, Parnaby, Doriva, Boateng, Morrison, Queudrue, Hasselbaink, Viduka.

Ref: Gianluca Paparesta (Italy).

TV: (ITV 4, 5pm, KO 5.30pm).

## GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	2	0	0	4	0	6	
AZ Alkmaar	1	1	0	2	1	3	
Litex Lovech	1	1	0	2	1	3	
Grasshoppers	2	0	0	2	1	3	
Dnipro	2	0	0	2	1	5	

TO PLAY: Tonight: AZ v Middlesbrough, Dnipro v Litex Lovech, Wed, Nov 30; Grasshoppers v Dnipro, Litex Lovech v AZ, Thurs, Dec 15; AZ v Grasshoppers, Middlesbrough v Litex Lovech

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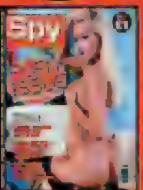
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## New Bolton skipper loves the lure of Europe

# CAPTAIN KEVIN EYES GLORY

**KEVIN NOLAN** is starting to feel like Captain Birdseye since becoming Bolton skipper – because everyone's taking the peas.

The 23-year-old was given the armband for keeps on Saturday after standing in for the injured Jay-Jay Okocha and leading the team to four wins out of four without a single goal conceded.

But he admits his new-found responsibility has come at a price, both in the training ground and even among non-footballing friends.

He said: "They all say I've changed now I'm captain, and whenever I do anything wrong I get even more stick. It is worse with people at home. "Every time I ring them it is always, 'All right, skipper'. I'm starting to feel like Captain Birdseye."

"At least the lads haven't done anything to 'celebrate' my appointment. If they had cut my clothes up there would have been murder – I'd have got them all fined."

The decision by Sam Allardyce was a difficult one and was only

by **GEORGE SCOTT**  
in Guimaraes

arrived at after talks with Okocha himself. The Bolton manager scoffs at reports that losing the captaincy will hurry the Nigerian out of the Reebok Stadium when the transfer window opens.

And Nolan has been impressed at the good grace with which he has accepted the demotion.

### Grace

He said: "Jay-Jay has been fantastic. He was the first one to come over and congratulate me."

"Every since he took over as captain he has been fantastic and he has been a true gentleman over the decision and I cannot speak highly enough of him."

"I know this season there are going to be times when I am going to need the likes of Jay-Jay maybe to put an arm round my shoulder when things aren't going so well."

Ahead of tonight's UEFA Cup tie with Portuguese side Guimaraes, and with Bolton undefeated in

Europe in their debut season, he hopes the good times might come sooner rather than later.

Nolan said: "We have surprised everybody with how well we have adapted to Europe and we have surprised ourselves too."

"But we are an ambitious club and we think that whatever competition we are in we have a good chance of winning it."

"I had the experience of getting to the League Cup final a couple of years ago and nothing would be more fantastic than lifting a trophy with Bolton."

"We can do that this season, but the next six weeks could make or break the season."

### TEAMS

**BOLTON (4-3-3):** Walker; O'Brien, Ben Haim, N'Gotty, Gardner; Faye, Okocha, Speed; Stelios, Nolan, Borgetti.

**VITORIA (4-4-2):** Freitas; Mario Sergio, Dragoner, Moreno, Cleber; Svard, Neca, Flavio, Benachour; Saganowski, Dario.

**Ref:** L Duhamel (France).  
**TV:** (C5, 7.45pm, KO 8pm)



### GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	2	1	0	2	1	4	
Sevilla	1	1	0	3	0	3	
Zenit	2	1	0	1	2	3	
Besiktas	2	0	1	1	4	1	
Guimaraes	1	0	0	1	2	0	

**TO PLAY:** Tonight: Zenit v Sevilla, Guimaraes v Bolton, Thurs, Dec 1; Besiktas v Zenit, Sevilla v Guimaraes, Weds, Dec 14; Bolton v Sevilla, Guimaraes v Besiktas.

## Sidwell: We're in top gear

by **SCOTT COLEMAN**

**STEVE SIDWELL** is confident he and his Reading team-mates will be playing in the Premiership next season – but boss Steve Coppell is keeping their feet firmly on the ground.

After the Royals whipped Ipswich 3-0 to go top of the Championship, Sidwell said: "The boys are on fire at the moment."

"We are going into every game feeling as if we're unbeatable. We are absolutely flying and everyone is so confident."

### Credit

"To have gone 22 games unbeaten is incredible."

But boss Coppell is keen that, despite the long unbeaten run, he doesn't want October and November to become the highlights of their season.

"Great credit should go to the gaffer for what we've achieved," added Sidwell. "Steve keeps our feet firmly on the ground."

"He doesn't say a lot during the week and then you really find out his qualities on a match day. He prepares so well for every game and he gives a little speech before you go out."

"I'm telling you, it's like something out of Braveheart. You feel like you're going to war."

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SPOT ON: Robert Pires scores the winner

Pires: I'm  
Gunner be  
staying on

PENALTY hero Robert Pires yesterday confirmed he will see out his contract at Arsenal as he predicted the Gunners could at last be on the brink of European glory.

Pires was the match winner in Switzerland on Tuesday when he came off the bench to replace Thierry Henry and calmly converted an 88th-minute penalty for the only goal of the game against FC Thun.

His winner ensured Arsenal maintained their 100 per cent record in the Champions League this season – a competition in which Arsene Wenger's side have never been past the last eight – and clinched top spot in Group B.

Boss Wenger hailed Pires for taking the spot-kick, having famously cocked-up when he attempted a trick one with Henry against Manchester City a month ago.

Last night the Frenchman – who has been linked with Galatasaray, Valencia and Juventus in the past six months – insisted he was determined to see out his sixth season in Europe with the Gunners.

## Feeling

With his contract up in the summer and no immediate signs of a new one, it had been thought the 32-year-old could be tempted by a new offer from elsewhere when the transfer window opens in January.

Pires is likely to receive just a one-year offer from the Gunners but will hold out for two.

He said: "I am here for the season, no question."

"Yes, I will be talking to the club in January but the only thing I am thinking of is winning something with Arsenal this season."

"I have had this feeling since the start of the season that we could do something special in the Champions League."

"Now we've finished top of the group, we have a better chance of progressing with the combination of youth and experience we have in the team. I'll not be leaving before the end of

by DAVID WOODS

this season and I very much want to stay. I'm going nowhere – that is for certain.

"And I hope I am at Arsenal next season. That is very much what I want."

Pires – who confirmed earlier this month that only the intervention of boss Wenger stopped him from joining Juventus with Patrick Vieira in the summer – said he had no qualms about taking the penalty in Bern.

He added: "Did I think back to what happened against Manchester City? No, not at all."

"I know it was the first time that I took a penalty since then but I wasn't nervous about it."

"I felt very confident because I knew it was an important one and was likely to give us a win."

DENNIS BERGKAMP is hoping his testimonial game will be one of the first fixtures at Arsenal's new Emirates Stadium. The Dutchman is set to retire at the end of the current season.

Phone  
giants  
hang up

From Back Page

United. The club's commercial director Andy Anson was last night insisting that he will clinch another major shirt deal.

Vodafone end their agreement next summer, two years early, and will become one of the main sponsors of the Champions League.

Their decision strengthens the theory that United, who have conceded pre-eminence in the Premiership to Chelsea, can no longer count on their name alone guaranteeing them the best sponsorships.

Anson was having none of that as he said: "The Manchester United shirt is the most iconic in sport."

"The club feels there is a genuine chance to attract significant additional investment. We are confident of securing a new deal in the coming months."

## Record

But Bones doesn't think United will find the big hitters of the branding world queuing up, as they once did, to back the Reds.

Chelsea recently secured a British record £50m, five-year shirt deal with Samsung and Real Madrid – David Beckham and all – will enter a world record, £16m-a-year agreement with Taiwanese mobile phone company BenQMobile next summer.

Bones said: "No financial expert can see how the huge debt Glazer has put on United can be paid back, so what large sponsor would want to back the club while he is there?"

"As far as we are concerned, the sooner the Glazers go, the better."

United say they have been aware for some months of Vodafone's decision and have planned accordingly.

Clearly, the team's continued involvement in the Champions League is crucial to their business plan.



by BILL THORNTON

EDWIN VAN DER SAR last night admitted Manchester United are lucky to still have a chance of staying in the Champions League.

"I think we have got away with it a little bit," the United keeper insisted as fans came to terms with the awful possibility that their heroes could fall at the first hurdle.

United's goalless draw at Old Trafford against Villarreal leaves them with only one win from five in Group D – and the outcome of the group in the melting pot.

Van der Sar, veteran of two European Cup Finals with Ajax in the 1990s, didn't duck the unpalatable truth when he said: "We are still in with a chance only because of the other results."

Fortunately for manager Sir Alex Ferguson, United's lacklustre efforts have been matched by the other teams in the group, all three of whom have also won only once.

Benfica are the top-scoring side with three goals – and they are bottom with five points, one less than the Reds who are in third place.

But if the Portuguese team beat United in Lisbon on December 7, United won't even make the UEFA Cup.

## Glory

It is all a big let-down for Ferguson, the fans, United's new owners the Glazers – and for Van der Sar, the 35-year-old stopper who signed from Fulham seeking more glory in Europe.

"I am really enjoying playing in the Champions League again," said the multi-capped Holland star. So, I would really like to keep going into the next phase.

"It would be very difficult and disappointing for me if we don't go through."

The same can be said for everyone at United, not least Malcolm Glazer, who would kiss goodbye to a potential extra £15m if the team is beaten in Benfica next month.

Yet, such is the delicacy of the situation that victory in the Stadium of Light in Lisbon would guarantee progress and a crack at that jackpot.

And the United players are still backing boss Fergie to see them through.

## Destiny

Wayne Rooney, whose form on Wednesday was one of the few bright spots, insisted yesterday: "Sir Alex has been around in the game for years and in my eyes he's probably the best manager of all time."

Rio Ferdinand added: "We would rather be in this position where we know what we have to do rather than have to wait for the other result."

"We have to rely on our own resolve and make sure we get through to the next phase."

"Our destiny is in our own hands and we have the capability of doing the job."

"We have to make sure we



OH BROTHER: Avi, Brian and Joel Glazer look on as United can only draw at Old Trafford against Villarreal

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# United but Van der Sar remains hungry for glory

# SO LUCKY TO STILL BE IN IT

## Pard's taunt regret

by STEVE BRENNER

WEST HAM boss Alan Pardew has apologised to Spurs for the abuse directed at Mido last Sunday.

The Tottenham striker was subjected to taunts of "your mum's a terrorist" and "shoe bomber" - a reference to lookalike Richard Reid who was jailed for trying to blow up a passenger jet in 2001.

The Hammers may yet face an FA rap but boss Pardew insists the club will not tolerate such behaviour.

He said: "It is never nice and I do not approve of it at all."

"I think we have always tried to show we will not tolerate such behaviour. There are so many children that can be influenced at our games."

### Image

"This was not called for. It is not the image we want to set. We have a good feeling in the stadium at the minute and we do not want that to disappear."

"We are also in the middle of a multi-racial community. We want to portray ourselves as a good young team with good fans."

"Our fans are brilliant. So those little things - done by the few - are not nice."

"I apologise but these situations are difficult as it happens at most games."

"I was at Charlton against Manchester United and some unsavoury things were said. But that does not mean to say we should accept it."



STRAIN GAME: Fergie, inset, and Rooney, right, feel the pressure as Rio keeps Villarreal at bay

do the job. I think there is a lot more to come from this team - but we've got to do it now.

"We want to take our form from the league and carry it into the Champions League and hopefully get through."

"You have to deal with every situation that is thrown at you in European football. It will be a hard game in Benfica - they gave us a hard game here."

### Rub

United's lamentable scoring record has been crippling their progress, in Europe, for two seasons.

**Ferdinand admitted:** "I'd be an Einstein if I knew why we haven't won these games in the Champions League."

"But we wouldn't swap Wayne Rooney and Ruud van Nistelrooy for anybody else."

"Wayne can do almost anything he wants and Ruud is just a natural-born goalscorer. It's a case of getting the rub of the green."

United have scored only two goals in the group phase, both in the win over Benfica at Old Trafford.

Van der Sar added: "We'd like to score more, especially at home, but we aren't managing to do it and that is very disappointing."

## United's travel sickness

UNITED'S trail of European travel sickness makes worrying reading. Last away wins: November 2003, Panathinaikos 1-0. And since then: Feb 2004: Porto 1-2. Sept 2004: Lyon 2-2. Oct 2004: S. Prague 0-0. Dec 2004: Fenerbahce 0-3. March 2005: AC Milan 0-1. Sept 2005: Villarreal 0-0. November 2005: Lille 0-1.

### Games

But history is on their side. Next month's Lisbon clash will be only the fifth time they have played Benfica in the competition, but two of those games rank alongside some of the club's greatest in Europe. They are:

**GARY NEVILLE** lasted 75 minutes of his second game in two days when he played for United's reserves last night. He stepped up his bid for a first-team slot at West Ham on Sunday by starting against Manchester City's second string after previously coming on as sub against Villarreal at Old Trafford the night before. United won the game 4-2 thanks to a hat-trick from promising striker Giuseppe Rossi.

**MARCH 1966: Benfica 1, Manchester United 5**  
**GEORGE BEST**, the 19-year-old from Belfast, stamped his name indelibly upon the history of the club with a spellbinding display in the Stadium of Light in front of 80,000 disbelieving fans.

Best scored in the sixth and 12th minutes, then set up John Connolly for the third to leave the pride of Lisbon's European Cup quarter-final hopes in tatters.

At that point, Benfica

had won 18 and drawn one of their 19 home matches in Europe. United had won the first leg 3-2, but lost to eventual runners-up Partizan Belgrade in the semis.

**MAY 1968, EUROPEAN CUP FINAL: Benfica 1, Manchester United 4.**

ALL the drama was in extra time, after Bobby Charlton opened the scoring in the 53rd minute with a header - and Benfica grabbed an equaliser nine minutes from time.

Alex Stepney made a tremendous save to deny the legendary Eusebio a winner and take the match to the extra 30 minutes.

United didn't need long to stun the Eagles for a second time in two years.

George Best struck after three minutes, followed by Brian Kidd and Charlton, all in the first period.

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**SOUTHAMPTON** captain Nigel Quashie can not play until Boxing Day after being handed a three-match ban for being sent off in Tuesday's draw at Hull.

**BIRMINGHAM** youngster Sam Oji has joined Doncaster on a six-week loan deal.

**STOKE** will offer John Halls in a straight swap for West Ham winger Luke Chadwick in the January transfer window.

**BLACKBURN** boss Mark Hughes has allowed striker Jemal Johnson to extend his loan at Preston for a second month.

**OXFORD** striker Danny Morgan has joined Basingstoke Town on a month's loan.

**MANCHESTER** United defender Paul McShane has had to cut short his loan at Brighton after being ruled out for three months with an ankle ligaments injury.

**JOHN** Hollins, the former Chelsea and Swansea boss, has been named manager of Crawley Town.

**BURY** have given a trial to Burscough FA Cup hero Liam Blakeman.

**IPSWICH** striker Sam Parkin is out for four months after breaking his ankle in the defeat by Reading on Tuesday.

**QPR** winger Aaron Brown has been rejected by Barnsley after a trial.

**FORMER** Scotland international Don Hutchison has left Millwall by mutual consent just three months after signing for them.

**LUTON** have lodged a complaint to the Trinidad and Tobago FA after Carlos Edwards returned late from international duty.

**NEIL** Warnock has told loan signing Vincent Pericard to decide if he wants to stay at Sheffield United. The Portsmouth hitman's deal runs out next month.

**SERIOUSLY football**

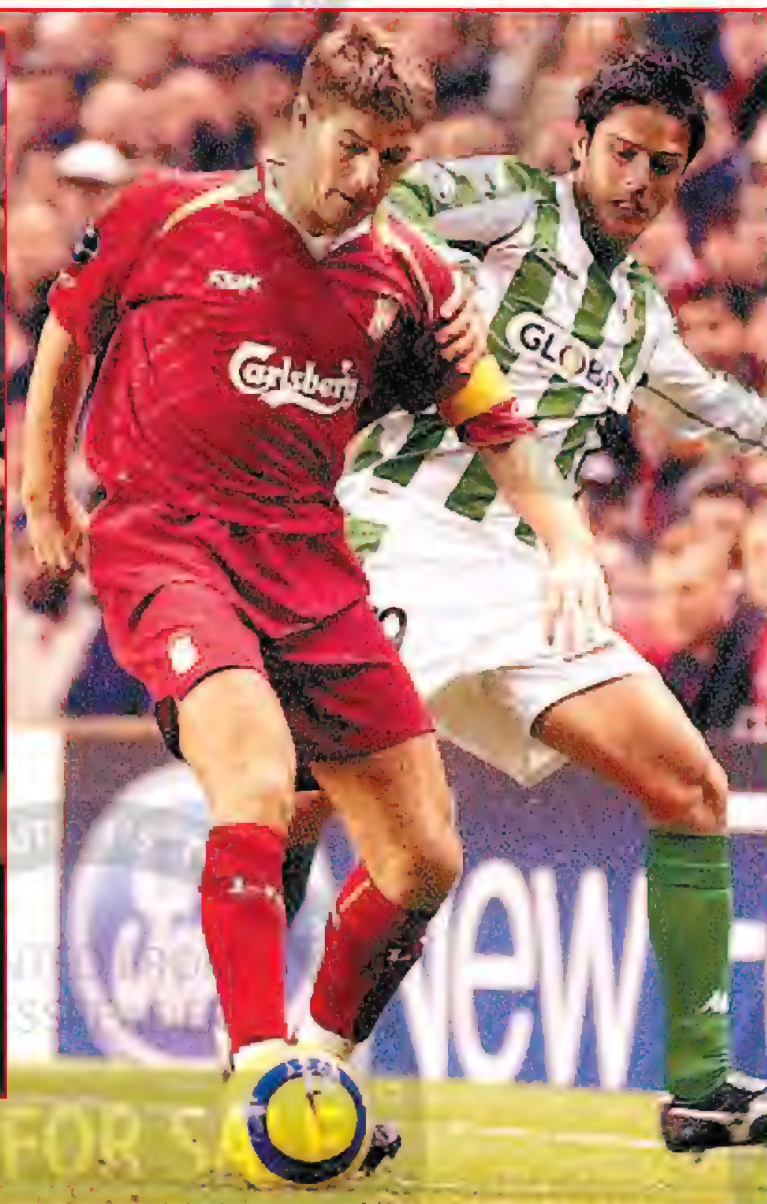


## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Liverpool goal



**TALL ORDER:** Liverpool's Peter Crouch meets female assistant referee Nelly Viennott and Steven Gerrard (right) tries to get the better of Oscar Lopez

Pics: JOHN DAWES



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# MEGASTORES vs OTHER STORES

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# flop out of luck but Reds go through

# BLUE PETER STILL BLANK

IT may have been a goalless draw but European Cup holders Liverpool are through to the knockout stages of the Champions League.

They now travel to Stamford Bridge on December 6 for a Group G showdown with Jose Mourinho's Chelsea all-stars - and they need only a point to claim top spot.

Liverpool skipper Steven Gerrard should have put the game beyond doubt in the 89th minute when he was through one-on-one with Betis keeper Antonio Doblas - but the stopper got a hand to his shot to keep his side on level terms.

It might have been a bitterly cold night on Merseyside but Peter Crouch did his best to warm the fans and end his nightmare goal drought.

By the time he trudged off in the 83rd minute he had run himself into the ground for the Kop's cause - and still not managed to find the net despite having TEN chances to score.

## Frantic

Crouch went tantalisingly close four times in a frantic three-minute spell midway through the first half.

The giant £7m marksman first of all showed a fine touch by subverting around and changing the ball from his left foot to his right before firing in a shot which was taken on the line by Doblas in the 24th minute.

Then skipper Steven Gerrard put him through but Crouch just couldn't get enough pace on his shot and the ball was cleared for a corner.

Gerrard then sent over the flag kick from which Crouch directed a powerful downward header just wide, with keeper Doblas caught completely out of position.

The crowd, and Crouch's team-mates, were clearly willing him on to end that barren spell in front of goal and he almost did it just a few seconds later.

Once again it was that man Gerrard who lobbed the ball over from the right wing to find the England international, who once again headed just inches wide.

It was the kind of run-until-you-drop performance the Anfield crowd had been longing to see from the sometimes awkward-looking Crouch. And he certainly got plenty of vocal backing



by **KEVIN FRANCIS**  
**Liverpool...0 Real Betis...0**

from them. It was all a far cry from some of the crowd reactions he's had this season.

Most noticeably the way he was booed while warming up to come on as substitute for England earlier this season.

Those four quick-fire goal attempts certainly lived up to the crowd on a freezing night.

And Crouch's encouraging workrate was certainly a cause for terrace optimism against the livewire visitors. And by

jove were they quick! Betis really did cause Liverpool plenty of problems with their nippy moves upfield causing plenty of jitters in the Liverpool rearguard.

## Burst

Xisco was troublesome and frequently managed to burst through alone, his speed causing John Arne Riise a few problems at the back.

Then Joaquin burst through and nutmegged Riise only to have the ball

run away from him as he lined himself up for an effort at goal just before half-time.

Betis are second bottom in La Liga but Liverpool's Spanish boss Rafa Benitez had warned before the game that they were in something of a false position.

*Their play certainly backed up his words and it was only because Liverpool were at something approaching the top of their game that they were able to keep control of the match for long periods.*

And in Gerrard they had someone who was once again in outstanding form, spraying the ball around with the kind of inch-perfect passing that

is such a trademark of his game.

Yet, typical of this captain marvel, he also rolled his sleeves up and took his turn at scoring opportunities whenever they arose.

One particular right-foot effort in the 37th minute looked to be a certain goal until Doblas managed to get in the way and divert the danger.

Doblas was one of the busiest men on the pitch, keeping an eye on Crouch while doing his best to stifle Fernando Morientes.

He blocked one fine first-half Morientes effort and then flung himself at the striker's feet to deny him at the start of the second period as well.

But he saved the best for last, denying Istanbul hero Gerrard with a minute remaining when a goal seemed a certainty.

## TEAMS

**LIVERPOOL:** Reina, Finnan, Carragher, Hyypia, Riise, Gerrard, Hamann, Sissoko, Zenden, Crouch, Morientes, Subs: Dudge, Kewell, Cisse, Josemi, Traore, Warnock, Potter.  
**REAL BETIS:** Doblas, Meli, Juanito, Rivas, Oscar Lopez, Joaquin, Assuncao, Rivera, Arzu, Xisco, Fernando, Subs: Contreras, Canas, Capl, Castellini, Edu, Juanjo, Israel, Ref: Eric Poulart (France).



**LONG SHOT:** Peter Crouch tries to get past Alberto Rivera

## Information Station

### FOOTBALL

**UEFA Champions League**  
**Group E**  
Fenerbahce (0) 0 AC Milan (1) 4  
Shcherbo 16, 52, 70, 76  
At: 50,000  
Schalke 04 (1) 3 PSV (0) 0  
Kobashvili 18 pen, 73, 79 pen  
At: 30,000

**Group F**  
Real Madrid (1) 1 Lyon (0) 1  
Gut 41  
Carr 72  
At: 59,000  
Rosenborg (0) 1 Olympiakos (1) 1  
Helstad 88  
At: 17,450  
Sent off: A. Pantos (Olympiakos) 85

**Group G**  
Lyon (0) 0 Chelsea (2) 2  
At: 21,070  
Liverpool (0) 0 Real Betis (0) 0  
At: 42,077

**Group H**  
Anderlecht (0) 0 Chelsea (2) 2  
At: 21,070  
Liverpool (0) 0 Real Betis (0) 0  
At: 42,077

**Group I**  
Porto (0) 1 Rangers (0) 1  
Lopez 60  
At: 48,000  
Inter Milan (2) 4 A. Bratislava (0) 0  
Figo 28  
Adriano 41, 59, 74

**Group J**  
Inter Milan (0) 0 A. Bratislava (0) 0  
At: 1,131  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group K**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group L**  
LDV-VANS TROPHY  
NORTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group M**  
SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group N**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group O**  
LDV-VANS TROPHY  
SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group P**  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group Q**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group R**  
LDV-VANS TROPHY  
SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group S**  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group T**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group U**  
LDV-VANS TROPHY  
SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group V**  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group W**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group X**  
LDV-VANS TROPHY  
SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group Y**  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group Z**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group AA**  
LDV-VANS TROPHY  
SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group AB**  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group AC**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group AD**  
LDV-VANS TROPHY  
SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group AE**  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group AF**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group AG**  
LDV-VANS TROPHY  
SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group AH**  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group AI**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group AJ**  
LDV-VANS TROPHY  
SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group AK**  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group AL**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group AM**  
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Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group AN**  
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Etobico 57  
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At: 1,719

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Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
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Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

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Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group AR**  
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Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group AS**  
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SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**Group AT**  
Colchester (0) 1 Northampton (1) 1  
Etobico 57  
Garza 90  
At: 1,719

**Group AU**  
Oxford Utd (1) 1 Leyton Orient (0) 0  
Sabin 27  
At: 1,521

**Group AV**  
LDV-VANS TROPHY  
SOUTHERN SECTION  
SECOND ROUND  
Boston (0) 0 Kidderminster (3) 3  
At: 1,131

**PGA GRAND SLAM OF GOLF**  
Popu Bay GC, Kauai, Hawaii - 1st  
Rnd (USA unless stated, par 72): 67 T  
Woods - 70 P. Mickelson - 73 M  
Campbell (Nzi), 75 V Singh (Fil).

**ICE HOCKEY**  
NHL: Tampa Bay 4 Philadelphia 2  
Ottawa 5 Carolina 3, NY Rangers 3  
Buffalo 2 (SO), Montreal 3 Atlanta 2  
(SO), Pittsburgh 5 Washington 4, Los  
Angeles 6 St Louis 3, Anaheim 2  
Phoenix 1, Vancouver 3 Chicago 1.

**RUGBY UNION**  
**Welsh Premiership**  
Carmarthen 0 Llanelli 23

**THE MASTERS QUALIFYING**  
(Pontins, Prestatyn) - Qualifying  
finals: S. Bingham (Eng) bt A. Carter  
(Eng) 5-3.

**TODAY'S DIARY**  
(Football 7.45pm unless stated)  
**UEFA Cup Group D**  
AZ v Middlesbrough (5.30)...  
Dnipro v Litke Lovetch (6.45)...

**AMERICAN FOOTBALL**  
NFL: Detroit v Atlanta, Dallas v  
Denver.

**CRICKET**  
Second Test Match - day 5 of 5:  
Pakistan v England (Faisalabad).  
First Women's Test Match - day 4  
of 4: India Women v England Women  
(Delhi).

**GOLF**  
European Tour Volvo China Open  
(Shenzhen Golf Club).  
Merrill Lynch Skins Game (Tilgry  
GC, La Quinta, California).

**SNOKER**  
The Masters Qualifying Event (The  
Windsor Centre, Preston).  
Betfred.com Premier League (St  
David's Hall, Cardiff).

**YESTERDAY'S SPORTWORD**  
ACROSS: 1 Redknapp, 6 Queen, 7  
Speed, 9 Ally, 10 Finnan, 12 Harris,  
14 Tree, 17 Edgar, 18 Reyes, 19  
Speedway.  
DOWN: 2 Euell, 3 Kent, 4 Austin, 5  
Pean, 6 Quashie, 8 Denness, 11  
Pierce, 13 Regis, 15 Reyna, 16 Fred.

**5 FOR FUN ANSWERS**  
1 Johnny Murtagh, 2 Australia, 3  
F5 East Fife 4, 4 Oxford United, 5  
1964 (Tokyo).

**CRICKET**  
FIRST WOMEN'S TEST MATCH  
(Delhi) - India Women v England  
Women: India Women 289 (M Raj 78,  
others available on request).

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FIRST WOMEN'S TEST MATCH  
(Delhi) - India Women v England  
Women: India Women 289 (M Raj 78,  
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Women: India Women 289 (M Raj 78,  
others available on request).

**CRICKET**  
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**6/4 Guimaraes 9/4 Draw Bolton 11/8**  
UEFA Cup, tonight, kick-off 8.00pm, live on Channel 5

correct score	first goalscorer
Guimaraes Score Bolton	7/1 K. Davies (B)
0/1 0-0 5/1	7/1 H. Dior (B)
1/2 1-0 11/2	7/1 J. Borgetti (B)
5/1 1-1 5/1	8/1 K. Molan (B)
10/1 2-0 9/1	16/1 Stelios (B)
5/1 2-1 9/1	14/1 J. Okocha (B)
14/1 2-2 14/1	14/1 H. Nakata (B)
20/1 3-0 25/1	14/1 H. Nakata (B)
20/1 3-1 25/1	16/1 G. Speed (B)

11/10 AZ Alkmaar 11/5 Draw Middlesbrough 2/1  
UEFA Cup, today, kick-off 5.30pm, live on ITV4

correct score		first goalscorer	
AZ Alkmaar	Score Middlesbrough	6/1	Yakubu (M)
6/1	0-0 5/1	6/1	M. Viduka (M)
13/2		6/1	J.F. Hasselbaink (M)
5/1	1-1 5/1	7/1	M. Macaroni (M)
10/1	2-0 12/1	12/1	G. Mendietta (M)
5/1	2-1 10/1	16/1	J. Morrison (M)
14/1	2-2 14/1	20/1	F. Queudus (M)
18/1	3-0 40/1	25/1	Dravira (M)
16/1	3-1 28/1		



SERIOUSLY  
football

## CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Crespo repays his

# Chelsea back in groove

IT was below freezing here in Brussels – but it's the rest of Europe who should be shivering. Just who will be too hot for Chelsea this season?

Manchester United have bigger problems of their own, and now they need a new sponsor as well as a fresh direction. Arsenal will come hard, but do they have the depth?

We will probably have to wait for Barcelona and Ronaldinho to give Jose Mourinho and his men their ultimate test. Barca versus the Blues, now that would be a tasty Champions League Final.

What we discovered here was that Chelsea have repaired any early-season rough edges and look in the mood again.

## Intrigue

Mourinho, of course, never had any doubts but there were questions to answer after defeats at Old Trafford in the league and Real Betis in Europe. A Carling Cup exit in the middle only added to the intrigue.

**Victory over Newcastle on Saturday followed by this stroll means normal service has been resumed. We didn't really think anything else, did we?**

Chelsea's well-oiled machine is running smoothly again. And it is going to take something or someone special to stop them winning a really big prize.

Anticipating that moment will be like waiting for the lottery numbers on a Saturday night, nope, not this week.

Liverpool will believe they can retain their trophy – but would anyone bet on them beating Chelsea over two legs



## WOOLY'S VERDICT

again? Chelsea have so many players of quality, and here is a good time to praise the rebuilding of Joe Cole.

Cole was so unhappy at being left out by England against Argentina recently that he let coach Sven Goran Eriksson know his feelings before kick-off in Geneva.

**Such is Cole's new-found confidence that his reaction when he finally came on, making the winning goal for Michael Owen, proved his point.**

He believes he has never played better in his career.

He has lost his inconsistent tag and learned so much from Mourinho. Last night Cole couldn't help but express himself in a Chelsea performance that was as comfortable as it gets in Europe.

Cole is now close to being first choice with club and country, and it is credit to him that he has come so far so quickly.

Today he is a team player, rather than a circus act with no end product.

His dedication should be a lesson to any player who believes there is nothing to learn once they hit the heady heights of Championship medals and England caps.

Once Chelsea had scored twice in the opening 15 minutes, through Hernan Crespo and Ricardo Carvalho, it was not difficult for any of their players to enjoy themselves. Anderlecht, short of class, courage and confidence, were no opponents for a side slipping back into form.

No goals, no points and no hope for Anderlecht before the game. They began with nothing and ended with nothing.

## Electric

It is also significant that Chelsea have recovered with Eidur Gudjohnsen in the team. He remains one of the unsung heroes of the Premiership, a player no-one on the outside can understand why he isn't chosen for every match.

The Icelandic star oozes class and makes up for that lack of electric pace with a brain so much quicker than most.

Think Peter Beardsley and Teddy Sheringham and you have a picture of Gudjohnsen, the 'Thinking Man's Footballer'.

He does things without fuss and is going to be vital if Chelsea reach their target of a Premiership and Champions League double.

**Better opponents than this are waiting for them deeper into the season. Barcelona, Madrid, Lyon, Milan – but Chelsea proved here in Brussels that their swagger is back.**

The swagger from boss and team that annoys so many, but wins so much.

BRIAN WOOLNOUGH



**BLUE BLITZ!**  
Chelsea take an early two-goal lead against Anderlecht with superb finishes from Hernan Crespo (top) and Ricardo Carvalho



FIRST CLASS: Crespo celebrates the opener





## boss's faith as Blues get bullish in Belgium

# JOSE SHOWS HIS MUSCLES IN BRUSSELS

**JOSE Mourinho has proved he is a man worth listening to.**

And his team did just that as they came out of the traps in Brussels to get the win that meant qualification for the knockout stage of the Champions League.

Chelsea blew Anderlecht away with two quick-fire goals.

Hernan Crespo and Ricardo Carvalho both scored inside the first 15 minutes to virtually settle this tie.

Mourinho had warned his side that they were becoming too cocky and taking results for granted after a slight wobble.

Their blistering start to the season had been knocked off track by defeats to Real Betis in the Champions League and Manchester United in the Premiership.

The Chelsea boss feared his side were becoming complacent because everything was coming too easy to them.

But on the back of their 3-0 demolition of Newcastle at the weekend, they showed last night they had heeded their fiery manager's words.

**Mourinho said he wanted his side to start strongly and not give Anderlecht a look-in, and they did just that.**

### Perfect

But not before a scare of their own as Mbo Mpenza was just inches away from gliding into the goal.

Christian Wilhelmsson's cross past a stranded Petr Cech.

But straight from the goal-kick Frank Lampard dispossessed Anthony Vanden Borre on the left wing.

It was Chelsea's first goal away from home this season in Europe.

Crespo's inclusion had been a surprise considering most people expected him to be left out for Didier Drogba.

**The Ivory Coast striker was suspended at the weekend, which gave the Argentinian his chance in the side, and he took it with a goal against the Toon.**

But Crespo has played second fiddle this year to Drogba, and dangerously fell out with Mourinho after Eidur Gudjohnsen was started before him against Betis when the African hitman was injured.



**By DANNY FULLBROOK**  
**Anderlecht.....0**  
**Chelsea.....2**

Speculation has been rife that Crespo will be off-loaded in January, so this was a huge vote of confidence from the Portuguese boss.

And his decision reaped further dividends when Crespo helped set up Chelsea's second.

He flicked on a corner from Lampard into the path of Carvalho.

And the central defender volleyed the ball into the top right-hand corner for his second goal of his side's European campaign.

Chelsea's Champions League campaign had not exactly gone to plan this season.

A draw against Liverpool and defeat by Real Betis meant the Premiership champions might have needed to win

both of their last two games to guarantee qualification for the knock-out stages.

Mourinho had insisted before kick-off that one win would be enough to take Chelsea through Group G and he was right.

**Considering Anderlecht have set a new Champions League record of losing 11 games on the bounce, Chelsea did not exactly have much to fear from their opponents.**

All that Frank Vercauteren's side could salvage from their campaign was the possibility of finishing third in the group, and therefore a place in the UEFA Cup.

But the Belgian side had also suffered their own Roy Keane-style mutiny with dressing room unrest

and were in a state of disarray. And they proved that with the way they defended in the first 30 minutes.

There was still a worry for Chelsea though because despite reaching the semi-finals last year, for the second consecutive season, they had not won away from home in Europe for over a year.

Their last victory was in Russia against CSKA Moscow on November 2, 2004, and since then they had lost five and drawn one on their travels.

### Gutted

Mourinho claimed there were a number of different reasons to excuse this poor run, but the bottom line is they have struggled away from Stamford Bridge.

Roman Abramovich has made it clear to his manager that Europe is his prime concern this season as he has been gutted by the way Chelsea lost out in the last two seasons.

But Mourinho had to go into the game last night

without his key defensive midfielder Claude Makelele.

The Frenchman injured his knee at the weekend, and last night was replaced by Michael Essien.

This meant Gudjohnsen started on the ground he visited over seven years to watch his father play when he was with Anderlecht.

But after their opening burst none of this really mattered.

**The game was completely one-sided and Duff and Joe Cole nearly combined to score a third just before the break.**

The Irishman's shot was

deflected into the path of Cole, and his looping effort was well held by Proto.

At the start of the second-half Duff went close with a low strike from a corner which was won by a galloping run and cross from Carvalho.

Chelsea were on the hunt for more goals as they could see their opponents were starting to wilt under their onslaught on a bitterly cold night.

In the 66th minute Anderlecht finally managed to get a shot on target as Cech was forced to dive low to his right to prevent Serhat Akin's effort from creeping into the net.

### TEAMS

**ANDERLECHT:** Proto, Deschacht, Tihinen, Kompany, Zewlakow, Goor, Vanderhaeghe, Vanden Borre, Akin, Mpenza, Wilhelmsson. Subs: Zilka, Juhasz, Ehret, Zetterberg, Iachtchouck, Deman, Mitu.  
**CHELSEA:** Cech, Del Horno, Terry, Ricardo Carvalho, Gallas, Duff, Essien, Lampard, Joe Cole, Crespo, Gudjohnsen. Subs: Cudicini, Carlton Cole, Geremi, Drogba, Diarra, Paulo Ferreira, Huth.  
**Ref:** Stefano Farina (Italy).

## Lualua's plea for 'no fear'

by PETER WHITE

PORTSMOUTH striker Lomana LuaLua last night caused a stir by telling manager Alain Perrin to adopt the "no fear" policy of former Fratton Park boss Harry Redknapp.

LuaLua admitted he was not enjoying his football this season and has called on Perrin to switch to a more attacking approach, starting with Saturday's home clash against champions Chelsea.

LuaLua, having just recovered from malaria, admits it is difficult to produce goals with just one man up front, the formation Perrin has plumped for in recent weeks.

Pompey have scored just three goals in seven home matches, since beating Southampton 4-1 in April.

### Change

The Congo striker said: "Everyone had smiles on their faces then and we need to get that back."

"I play football because I enjoy it. But I haven't really been enjoying myself this season. To score goals you need support, not just me or one other striker alone."

"We need each other and, I think a different system, like 4-4-2, would be better."

"But it is up to the manager to change the formation. We've got to do what he tells us. I don't want to say anything wrong but Harry Redknapp didn't fear other sides."

Meanwhile, Pompey's Dutch keeper Sander Westerveld fears being left on the bench may hit his World Cup hopes.

## Lee's no loaner—O'Leary

DAVID O'LEARY has told Lee Hendrie to forget about leaving Villa Park on loan.

Former England midfielder Hendrie is frustrated at his lack of opportunities this season – but boss O'Leary has made it clear he has to stay and fight for a first-team place.

Hendrie is being kept on the sidelines by the impressive form of on-loan Newcastle youngster James Milner.

O'Leary said: "James has got the shirt at the moment. I know Lee is frustrated and wants to play football but he has to win back his place."

### Business

"I would love to pick all the players but I can only pick 11 – and if they are doing the business, then they stay in the side."

Hendrie, 27, has claimed that he would be happy to go out on loan, but O'Leary is not a fan of the move.

"He has never come to me and asked about going on loan, and we don't have the biggest squad," he said.

"He is due a testimonial at the end of the season, and he deserves it."

"That is the only thing we have spoken about in the last few weeks."



# New cash blow hits United



VODAFONE have switched off their £9m-a-year sponsorship deal with Manchester United. That has convinced the anti-Glazer

campaign that the club is spiralling deeper into debt – and into crisis. Malcolm Glazer has put United into a huge amount of debt and it is hard to

see how any large brand would want to sponsor the club while he is there," said Sean Bones, of Shareholders Turn to Page 58

**OLD TRAFFORD CRISIS: Pages 58-61**

## Raf through but Crouch still blank

**LIVERPOOL 0 CHAMPIONS LEAGUE 0**

LIVERPOOL booked their place in the last 16 of the Champions League last night, but the agony goes on for Peter Crouch.

The lanky £7m striker is still waiting to score his first goal for Liverpool. But, with a little bit of luck, he might have had half a dozen against Betis.

The shut-out by the Spaniards did not stop Rafael Benitez's European champions ensuring they go through from Group G into the knock-out stages.

### Flurry

But that lock-out meant there was no personal reward for England striker Crouch, who has now gone more than 20 hours without a Liverpool goal.

With his team-mates and the Anfield crowd clearly willing him on, he did everything but score, with a flurry of shots and headers which were either saved or deflected.

Betis never made it easy for Liverpool, but the champions marched on without any real problems.

**MATCH ACTION: Pages 60-61**



**BLUE HEAVEN:** Hernan Crespo (right) celebrates with Frank Lampard and Damien Duff after shooting Chelsea ahead last night

### GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool.....	5	3	2	0	6	11	11
Chelsea.....	5	3	1	1	7	11	10
Real Betis.....	5	2	1	2	3	6	7
Anderlecht.....	5	0	0	5	0	8	0

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Published by Express Newspapers, The Northern & Shell Building, Number 10, Lower Thames Street, London, EC3N 4SF. 0871 424 0700, October 19, 4400 810 002. Printed by West Fries Press Ltd, 225 Westbury Road, London, E4 6NR. Strengthen Printing Ltd, Green Place, Folkestone, Kent, ME20 4NF. Independent Printing Ltd, 1-2 Upper Heath Street, Quakenbush, C. Thompson Ltd, 44 Fort Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0JZ. South West Media Publications Limited, Adelaide Street, Swansea, West Glamorgan SA1 1AT. Integral Press SA, Marston Way 25, Marston, South Leicestershire LE19 4JH. 08499: Karolite Group SA, Albany, Gwent, Neva Nova SA, Ynys, Mallow, LE Print SA, Bristol, WIM, Gwent, Biggleswade, Bedfordshire, Row, Cambridge Newspapers, Cambridge CB4 0PP.

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# JOSE KOPS A CRACKER

**CHELSEA have set up a Champions League winner-takes-all showdown with Liverpool.**

They cruised to an easy 2-0 in Brussels to book their place in the last 16.

And they now have to beat the holders at Stamford Bridge on December 6 to win the group – and in theory earn an easier draw in the next stage.

Group winners are automatically drawn against runners-up, but Liverpool would earn top slot if they repeated their performance in

**UNDERLEIGHT CHENSEA** **0 2**

last season's semi-final, when they earned a draw. Chelsea's win last night was never in doubt from the moment Hernan Crespo put them into an eighth minute lead from Frank Lampard's cross.

And Ricardo Carvalho made it two seven minutes later when he volleyed hom from a

narrow angle after losing his marker at the far post from a corner.

That killed the game off as a spectacle and enabled Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho to make a series of second-half substitutions that saw Carlton Cole, Geremi and Lassana Diara all come on.

Betis could in theory finish level on points with Chelsea, but the Londoners' better record in the head-to-head games between the pair would book their passage.

**MATCH ACTION: Pages 62-63**